

Famine toll rises in Somalia

MOGADISHU (R) — Deaths from starvation and diseases related to malnutrition are increasing in Somalia, target of an international operation to stop famine two years ago, aid agencies in Mogadishu said on Sunday. The famine prevention committee set up by the self-styled president, Mohammed Farah Aided — whose government is recognised only by Libya — said at the weekend that at least 11,000 families were suffering from starvation and related disease. "The humanitarian situation is worsening, at a time when many of the relief agencies formerly operating in Somalia have withdrawn their staffs," one aid worker said. General Aided's famine committee said 33 camps for displaced people lacked shelter, food and water. Poor sanitation was escalating the spread of disease. The French agency International Action Against Hunger (IAICF) has launched four feeding centres for malnourished children under five in Mogadishu. But they have been unable to save many of the children registered, who have died from diarrhoea, tuberculosis and other diseases.

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German team begins visit

AMMAN (J.T.) — A German delegation led by Hans Klein, president of the Bundestag (parliament), arrived in Amman Sunday on a six-day visit to Jordan. They will meet with His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent, and senior Jordanian officials. During their stay in Jordan the German parliament members will have meetings with the speakers and the members of the Upper and Lower Houses of Parliament on topics of concern to the two countries. The delegation groups representatives of the various German political parties.

Guerrilla killed in Israeli shelling

MARIAYOUN (AP) — Israeli forces in a South Lebanon border enclave killed a guerrilla Sunday when a group of guerrillas attempted to launch an attack in the area, security sources reported. They said the Hizbollah guerrilla was killed when Israeli tanks fired about seven shells on the Amoun road on the edge of the enclave Israel calls a "security zone." There was no confirmation of any casualty from the Lebanese army or sources at Hizbollah.

No-smoking law takes effect in Kuwait

KUWAIT (AP) — Lighting a cigarette in public places may now cost a smoker a 50-dinar (\$166) fine. A two-time offender will pay twice as much under a strict anti-smoking law that took effect Sunday. Smoking has been banned in virtually all closed buildings except for private homes. The law, passed by parliament last May, also bans smoking in private cars. Restaurants and coffee shops have to designate smoking areas. Shops are not allowed to sell tobacco to anyone under 21 years old.

Sudan hits Carter

KHARTOUM (AP) — Sudan's Islamist government, which once hailed Jimmy Carter as a peacemaker, called the former U.S. president biased and unfair Sunday after he criticised the regime. Mr. Carter ended an African tour Saturday during which he said that neither Sudan's government nor southern rebels were interested in peace talks to end the 12-year-old civil war. More than 1.3 million people have died in the war and famines caused by the fighting. Mahdi Ibrahim, minister of state for presidency, accused Mr. Carter of "losing balance, objectivity, morality and fairness." "We thought Carter enjoyed those merits but this position revealed that his endeavours do not differ from the official (American) policy which 'targets Sudan,'" he was quoted as saying Sunday in Akhbar Al Yom, a daily Sudanese newspaper. Mr. Carter brokered a ceasefire in Sudan that ended in July. It allowed health projects sponsored by the Carter Foundation of Atlanta to try to eradicate a worm which causes river blindness in the war-torn south.

Turkish speaker resigns, calls for early polls

ANKARA (R) — The speaker of the Turkish parliament resigned on Sunday, calling for early general elections and fueling speculation about a challenge to Prime Minister Tansu Ciller from within her own party. Husamettin Cindoruk, an opponent of Ms. Ciller's inside her True Path Party (DYP), agreed with most of Turkey's opposition parties when he said in a statement general elections should be held this year and not be delayed as Ms. Ciller has proposed. "I feel that the current political, social and economic conditions have vindicated my stance of being against a forcible exercise of a fifth year (of the current parliament)," Mr. Cindoruk said in statement declaring his resignation.

Jerusalem is a constituency in autonomy polls — Arafat
Settlers block access to King Hussein Bridge; Israeli court defers ruling on women prisoners

PALESTINIAN LEADER Yasser Arafat said on Sunday that Jerusalem will be among constituencies electing a Palestinian council. Algeria's state-run radio reported.

"I announce to you the good news that Jerusalem is one among the Palestinian election constituencies," Mr. Arafat was reported as saying.

The election of a 82-member Palestinian council in the West Bank and Gaza is one of the main provisions of the Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) agreement signed on Thursday at the White House in Washington.

An Israeli version of the accord in effect in Taba on Sept. 24 states that there will be "various constituencies set out in the Palestinian election law" to be passed by the Palestinian National Authority (PNA).

The accord further stipulates the constituencies "shall be consistent with the provisions of this agreement," but it was not immediately clear whether the Israeli government regarded this as tantamount to agreeing to a Jerusalem constituency.

PLO negotiators had previously said East Jerusalem Palestinians would be

allowed to vote in the elections at public buildings in the city, but had not referred to a Jerusalem constituency as such.

Mr. Arafat held talks with the Algerian President Liamine Zeroual in Algiers on Sunday over his deal with Israel expanding Palestinian self-rule in the West Bank, Algerian radio said.

Israel's supreme court meanwhile ordered a group of Palestinian women prisoners held for at least another 24 hours despite the government's agreement to release them as part of the accord with the PLO.

As part of the autonomy agreement signed in Washington, Israel agreed to release 2,000 of the 5,000 Palestinian prisoners it holds, as well as all 28 women prisoners.

But right-wing critics have argued that some of the women were convicted of killings, while the agreement also states that detainees imprisoned for causing death will not be released.

In five of the cases — in which the accused are residents of East Jerusalem and therefore not subject of military courts — the government is asking President Ezer Weizman to issue a pardon.

Mr. Weizman says he has not yet decided whether to comply.

After two attorneys appealed against a release of the women, the supreme court ordered them held pending a debate to begin Monday.

The attorneys argued Mr. Weizman should in any case be disqualified from issuing a group amnesty since his authority is limited to individual cases.

It is not known when the government intended to release the women. Officials said some prisoners would be released this week.

Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres said meanwhile Israel would start withdrawing troops and shutting down the offices of its military government in the West Bank this month.

The impending transfer of power set off protests among Jewish settlers in the Jordan Valley, who claimed they were being abandoned.

Mr. Peres, speaking to the Associated Press, said the troop withdrawal from the West Bank would probably begin "in several weeks."

Mr. Peres said the goal was to have troops out of West Bank towns and villages by the end of the year, except

for Hebron, where a complicated arrangement that leaves Israeli troops in the city to protect Jewish settlers is being worked out.

"Hebron will take six months," Mr. Peres said.

Mr. Peres, in the United States for last Thursday's White House signing of the Israel-PLO agreement, said Israel would also shut down the 12 offices of its military government in the West Bank.

Shlomo Dror, a spokesman for the military government, said the first four offices would be closed next week, and the others would be closed within six months.

Palestinian sources said the Israelis and Palestinians argued until the last minute before the signing over a timetable for Israel's withdrawal from the West Bank.

In the end, the Israelis agreed to begin the pullout 10 days after the signing, instead of six months afterwards.

The army is expected to withdraw first from the city of Jenin in the northern West Bank and surrounding villages, followed by Nablus, Tulkarem and Kalkiya, the Ramallah and Bethlehem and finally Hebron.

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Libya to oust 5,000 more Palestinians in one week

CAIRO (Agencies) — Tripoli prepared Sunday to expel up to 5,000 Palestinians by land, sea and air in the coming week, while more than 300 deportees remained stranded in no-man's land between Egypt and Libya.

"The committee for the return of Palestinians is reserving boats and airplanes to transport the Palestinians from Tripoli, Benghazi and Tobruk to Lebanon and elsewhere," a Libyan diplomat, who asked to remain anonymous, told AFP.

"Others will go by land" to the Egyptian border, the diplomat said, adding that "1,500 to 5,000 people will leave within the week."

Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi has ordered the expulsion of all 30,000 Palestinians in his country in an attempt to show up the "failure" of Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accords to create a valid Palestinian homeland.

Late Saturday Libya expelled

led around 800 Palestinians, mostly women and children, into a barren strip of no man's land on the border with Egypt, witnesses said.

A United Nations official said the latest expulsions brought to around 6,000 the number of Palestinians thrown out of the country in the last three months.

The deported Palestinians, many without identity cards or travel documents, were taken by bus to the Salloum border crossing, where many of their countrymen were earlier stranded for weeks.

Hassan Al Asmar, a spokesman for the deportees, told Reuters he expected hundreds more would join those stuck in the scorpion-infested patch of desert, hemmed in by barbed wire between the two states.

The Cairo representative of the U.N. High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) called on Libya to halt the expulsions.

"We are appealing to the

Libyan government for restraint, to stop expelling and stop relocation of Palestinians within the country until a solution can be reached."

UNHCR Representative Panos Moutzidis told Reuters, "Innocent people are suffering from these measures."

Col. Qadhafi called on Arab countries on Sept. 1 to throw out Palestinians in an effort to show up the shortcomings of Palestinian self-rule in the Gaza Strip and Jericho. The latest wave of expulsions follows the signing of a deal expanding Palestinian self-rule to much of the West Bank.

The official Libyan news agency JANA said on Saturday the Palestinians were "on their way home in compliance with the Palestinian masses' decision to go home, responding to the call of the revolution leader (Qadhafi)."

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Abdul Rahman, all others are found guilty of plotting

NEW YORK (AP) — Sheikh Omar Abdul Rahman was convicted Sunday of directing militants to bomb the United Nations and New York bridges and tunnels to frighten the United States into changing its Middle East policies.

The jury also convicted Al Sayyid Nossair in connection with the 1990 killing in New York of extremist Rabbi Meir Kahane, an assassination once described as an isolated attack by a crazed gunman but later as the opening blow of "war of urban terrorism."

After a week of deliberations, the jury also convicted eight others of seditious conspiracy in the failed bombing plot.

Most of the defendants looked on sternly. But one smirked and another repeatedly yelled in Arabic, "God is great."

while he listened to an interpreter through headphones. His attorney, Lynne Stewart, cried.

Afterwards, she told reporters that the sheikh said "He's not the first person to go to prison for his beliefs... and he won't be the last."

The verdict concluded a nine-month trial returning more than 200 witnesses and hundreds of exhibits in a heavily guarded Manhattan courthouse patrolled daily by a bomb-sniffing dog.

Facing a rarely used civil war-era seditious conspiracy charge, the defendants were accused of plotting bombings and killings to make the United States stop supporting Israel and Egypt.

The centerpiece of the plot featured five bombs in 10 minutes, meant to blow up the United Nations, the Lincoln and Holland tunnels, the George Washington Bridge and a federal building. Videotapes showed defen-

dants mixing bomb ingredients in a Queens garage just before their 1993 arrests.

The government had cast a wide net with the trial, using an FBI informant code named "Dallas" to shut down a cell that prosecutors said had operated in the United States since 1989.

It cited proof of telephone contact between the sheikh and bombers of the World Trade Centre in New York on Feb. 26, 1993, and transcripts of hundreds of taped conversations and excerpts from speeches in which the blind Egyptian sheikh said, "We must terrorise the enemies of Islam and... shake the earth under their feet."

Assistant U.S. Attorney Patrick Fitzgerald said that in 1990, the 57-year-old cleric, months after arriving in the United States, urged attacks similar to a suicide bombing that killed 241 U.S. Marines and caused the withdrawal of

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Kuwait studying 'Iraqi troop moves'

KUWAIT (Agencies) — Kuwait said on Sunday it was examining a British newspaper report alleging Iraq was building up its forces in southern Iraq.

"Kuwait is following up the report, and (Kuwait) underlines the need for Iraq's compliance with U.N. Security Council Resolution 949," Cabinet Affairs Minister Abdul Aziz Al Dakhil was quoted as saying by the official Kuwait News Agency.

Britain's Sunday Times reported Iraq had moved an additional 100 tanks and armoured personnel carriers into southern Iraq, adding there had been an "unusual" upsurge in Iraqi military signal traffic.

It said the alleged moves, which it said had been detected by Western spy satellites, had caused "intense debate" among U.S. intelligence and defence officials.

Western diplomats in Kuwait said the activity described by the Sunday Times related to the repair and refurbishment of Iraqi tanks and was not a deployment of forces. It did not appear cause for alarm.

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Holbrooke hopes to plug Bosnia gaps

SARAJEVO (Agencies) — With the warring sides still far apart on conditions for a nationwide ceasefire, U.S. envoy Richard Holbrooke took his peace mission to the third Balkan capital in as many days Sunday, hoping to close the gap.

Fighting continued in Bosnia, with the Serbs struggling to regain lost ground and government troops apparently pressing an offensive on the western town of Mrkonjic Grad.

Mr. Holbrooke was meeting Croatian government leaders after inconclusive talks with the Bosnian government in Sarajevo and Serbian President Slobodan

Milosevic, the main power broker in the Balkans.

Mr. Holbrooke was trying, among other things, to negotiate a ceasefire. But prospects appeared slim for one anytime soon.

"As we said many times, the distance separating the two sides is very large on all the basic issues," Mr. Holbrooke told reporters before departing the Serbian and Yugoslav capital Belgrade for Zagreb, Croatia.

"Every time we talk, each side clarifies its views a little, but while both sides say they want to stop the fighting, they haven't agreed on how this would be done," he said. "I don't want to be optimistic."

Mr. Milosevic, who negotiates on behalf of Bosnian Serbs, said in a statement that a ceasefire was a prerequisite for any high-level peace talks, after which "the ceasefire should transform into a permanent peace."

Among the Muslim-led Bosnian government's conditions for a ceasefire are total lifting of Sarajevo's siege. Bosnian Serbs have removed their heaviest guns from around the city, but insist that the rest need to stay in place to protect Serb-held portions of Sarajevo.

In Zagreb, Mr. Holbrooke meeting Croatian President

Franjo Tudjman, and then was to return to Sarajevo on Monday after a brief stop in Sofia, Bulgaria.

Mr. Holbrooke is trying to build on what Washington considers the best prospects yet for ending the war. The warring parties agreed last week in New York on a power-sharing scheme in a future government, although tricky details have yet to be resolved.

Bosnian government officials advised reporters not to leave Sarajevo before Mr. Holbrooke comes back on Monday, because a ceasefire might be agreed.

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18 killed in bus attack in Algeria

ALGIERS (AP) — Militants killed 18 people Sunday and injured 15 others, mostly children, in an attack on a bus south of Algiers, Algerian security forces said. Police killed four members of the group as they made their retreat, the statement said, and "security forces are continuing the search." Among the dead are three young children and woman, security forces said. Most of the injured are children, it added. The statement blamed the attack on a "terrorist group," language used to refer to militants waging an insurgency. It gave no details as to how the 9 a.m. attack near Laghouat, 325 kilometres directly south of Algiers, was carried out. The attack was one of the deadliest targeting civilians since the start of the insurgency three and-a-half years ago. The bus was travelling between the towns of Ghicha and Raba, neighbouring Laghouat, known as a haven of militants. Insurgents increasingly attack buses and trains but usually ask passengers to get out and simply burn the vehicles.



BEIJING RESULTS REVIEWED: Her Royal Highness Princess Basma on Sunday discusses the outcome of the recent U.N. Fourth Conference on Women held in Beijing with Islamic Action Front (IAF) Secretary-General Ishaq Farhan, IAF member and Senator Abdul Latif Arabiyat and IAF deputies Abdullah Akaleh, Bassam Omoush and Ziyad Khalifeh. Princess Basma, who led the Jordanian delegation to the Beijing conference, spoke about the role played by and coordination among the Arab and Islamic delegations to the gathering, especially over resolutions adopted by the meeting related to religious issues. The IAF leaders and deputies expressed their willingness to cooperate with the Jordanian National Committee on Women (Petra photo)

Oman agrees to establish trade relations with Israel

MUSCAT (Agencies) — Oman said Sunday it had agreed to set up official trade relations with Israel, becoming the first Gulf Arab state to open formal ties with the Jewish state.

The official Oman News Agency (ONA) said the decision followed a meeting at the United Nations in New York between Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres and his Omani counterpart, Youssef Ben Alawi Abdullah.

The two ministers have agreed to open trade representation offices for mutual technical and trade cooperation "between the two countries, the agency said.

It said they met late Saturday on the sidelines of a meeting of the U.N. General Assembly.

Oman and its five Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) allies do not have formal

diplomatic ties with the Jewish state although they agreed last year to lift an Arab boycott of foreign firms dealing with Israel.

The Saudi Arabian-dominated GCC supports the Middle East peace process, but the group says any normalisation of ties with Israel must be preceded by a comprehensive peace in the region, including Israeli withdrawal from the Syrian Golan Heights and southern Lebanon.

Oman and fellow GCC member Qatar have hosted Middle East multilateral peace talks, held public meetings with Israeli officials and received senior Israeli officials at home.

The Israeli and Omani ministers have met several times in the past while Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin last year visited Oman

for talks with Sultan Qaboos Ben Sa'id — the highest public contact between a GCC state and Israel.

Oman was the only GCC state and one of only three Arab League members not to sever ties with Egypt when it became the first Arab state to sign a peace accord with Israel in 1979.

The oil-rich GCC also groups Kuwait, the United Arab Emirates and Bahrain. Last month Qatar's ruler, Sheikh Hamad Ben Khalifa Al Thani, said his country was ready to sell gas to Israel.

Although Qatar has no immediate plans to export gas directly to Israel, it has given Enron Corp of the United States the right to market gas from a proposed Qatar project in the Mediterranean Sea basin, including Israel.

Qatar has the world's third largest proven gas reserves.

Iran 'will retaliate' if Israel attacks its nuclear facilities

TEHRAN (Agencies) — A senior official said in comments published Sunday that Iran would "inflict a stunning blow" if Israel ever carried out a threat to attack Iran's nuclear facilities.

The Israelis "are completely mistaken if they think they have the capability to carry out their threats without a reprisal," the commander of the Iranian air force, Brigadier General Habib Baqai, told the Kyhan Havai newspaper.

The Iranian air force "is fully prepared to inflict a heavy blow on them," the English-language paper quoted Gen. Baqai as saying. Last Dec. 31, Israel's military planning chief, Uzi Dayan, warned that Tehran had made a "significant advance" in its nuclear capabilities and could produce a bomb in less than five years.

That, he warned, "could lead Israel to take a decision on this matter next year... aimed at removing this threat."

Mr. Dayan spoke after Russia agreed to sell two nuclear reactors to Iran. Israel is considered to be the only nuclear power in the Middle East and does not want its nuclear monopoly challenged by Iran, a state it considers hostile.

Mr. Dayan did not elaborate. But in June 1981, eight Israeli F-16 fighter-bombers, escorted by eight F-15 fighters, knocked out Iraq's French-built Osirak nuclear reactor near Baghdad with 16 bombs.

"I don't take their threat seriously because they're not in a position to make such a claim," Gen. Baqai declared. Tehran denies it is engaged in a clandestine nuclear

weapon programme, claiming it wants nuclear reactors for civilian use only.

Iran has rebuilt its air force since the 1980-88 war with Iraq, in which its mainly U.S.-built combat jets were largely grounded by a lack of spare parts, avionics and missiles because of a Western arms embargo.

"Today we enjoy a powerful air force fully prepared to counter any foreign threats," Gen. Baqai said.

"We've improved our defence systems, eliminated the deficiencies of our electronic systems, put back to use the planes grounded because of damage and spare parts and improved our air-to-ground missiles," he said.

He said the air force is self-sufficient, echoing claims by other top leaders that the

Peace accord no ticket home for Palestinians

NAQURA (AFP) — Palestinian deportees Mohammad Julani and Khamis Khodr have been waiting to go home for five months, but the latest Israeli-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) peace accord appears to have passed them by.

To "kill time," Mr. Julani, 27, and Mr. Khodr, 56, take a daily swim in a secluded, clear bay on the Mediterranean as guests of United Nations forces in Lebanon. They also play chess, read, watch videocassettes and learn English.

Despite such a leisurely life, Mr. Khodr says: "We're dead. We moved from a small prison to a bigger one."

The PLO comrades were expelled to Lebanon by Israel in April after serving a combined 34-year jail sentence for planning attacks in the Jewish state.

The pair told Jordanian nationalities, but Amman turned down requests for their return, saying they are Palestinians, in view of the 1988 Jordanian decision to sever links with the West Bank.

The Palestinian self-rule authorities want to give them a home in the autonomous regions, but Israel refuses, saying they are "terrorists" and a threat to the Jewish state.

When the pair were driven blindfolded and arms bound from the Bersheeva prison to Lebanon and told "if you come back, we'll kill you," they walked to the nearest Lebanese army checkpoint. Lebanon, which refuses Palestinian deportees, turned them back.

The U.N. Interim Force in Lebanon (UNIFIL) opened the gates to its Naqura headquarters in the Israeli-occupied "security zone" and began searching for a solution with the International Red Cross (ICRC).

"We took them in for purely humanitarian reasons. Keeping them here is not an easy task, we worry about their safety and cannot let them go outside the compound," said UNIFIL spokesman Timur Goksel.

"Someone has to have courage to reverse the decision of expelling them. It's a wrong decision which clashes with the Middle East peace process," he said.

ICRC chief in Beirut Philippe Gaillard denounced the deportation as a "blatant violation" of Article 49 of the Fourth Geneva Convention.

"The only solution is political but Israel is blocking everything," said Mr. Gaillard.

"Before the peace process they were victims of the war. Now they are the forgotten victims of peace."

Mr. Khodr and Mr. Julani sleep in cells where UNIFIL locked up drunken soldiers but they have access to the spacious grounds, the private beach, the mess hall and other facilities.

On the eve of the signing last week of the PLO-Israeli West Bank autonomy accord in Washington, Mr. Julani and Mr. Khodr sipped Israeli-made juice out of a can on a verandah overlooking the Mediterranean.

"If no solution is found

within two months we'll seek political asylum, maybe from an Arab country, and ask that the Palestinian embassy take us as their wards," Mr. Julani said.

Mr. Gaillard said this would only serve to sanction further Israeli expulsions.

"It would be making things too easy for Israel and allow it to expel any undesirable Palestinians," he said, as in 1992 when Israel expelled 415 Palestinians to Lebanon.

With the latest expulsions of Palestinians from Libya, their situation seems more than ever precarious.

"I don't see which country will agree to take them now that (Libyan leader Muammar) Qadhafi is expelling Palestinians," Mr. Gaillard said.

In between beating Irish peacekeepers at chess, playing football and reading Wuthering Heights and the poems of Mahmoud Darwish, Mr. Julani is writing his memoirs, devoted to his nine years in Israeli prisons.

Mr. Khodr, a blacksmith before his 25 years in prison, helps with gardening and dreams of his family and "resting" in Jericho.

Mr. Khodr divorced his wife after his arrest in 1970 because he was sentenced to life imprisonment. He has had no news of her and his sons, whom he last saw in 1978.

His brother, a policeman with the self-rule Palestinian police in Jericho, has been trying to get him home while Mr. Julani's family in Jordan has hired a lawyer for him.

Prince Mohammad turns 55

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Prince Mohammad on Monday celebrates his 55th birthday.

Born on Oct. 2, 1940, Prince Mohammad received his elementary education at the Islamic College in Amman and had higher studies in Switzerland and Britain. He studied at the military college in Baghdad for

one year in 1956.

Prince Mohammad acted as Regent on several occasions. On Nov. 11, 1973, he was appointed personal representative of His Majesty King Hussein.

The Prince has assumed several posts, including the presidencies of the Jordanian Tribal Chiefs Council in 1971 and of the

Higher Tourism Council in 1972.

He is president of the Jordanian Shooting Federation, the Royal Shooting Club and the Jordan Chess Federation.

Prince Mohammad married his Royal Highness Princess Taghrid in March 1981. He has two sons, Their Royal Highnesses Prince Talal and Prince Ghazi.



Rabbani reinforces strategic valley

KABUL (AFP) — Fresh troops and ammunition supplies have been airlifted to government forces battling an attacking force of the Taliban Islamic movement south-west of Kabul, a senior military official said Sunday.

"We have sent reinforcements to Sanglakh, where fighting continues for the fourth day," said Defence Ministry spokesman Abdullah.

Sanglakh is a strategic valley less than 20 kilometres west of the Taliban-controlled provincial capital

Maidan Shahr.

"On Tuesday the Taliban launched their offensive against Sanglakh, and have advanced about a third-way up the valley," conceded Abdullah.

He said ammunition and reinforcements had been flown by helicopter from neighbouring Paghman district centre to Sanglakh.

On the map Paghman — headquarters of President Burhanuddin Rabbani's Pushtun ally, Irtihad-e-Islami faction leader Rasoul Sayyaf — looks deceptively close in

Sanglakh, but from the ground a formidable 4,000-metre mountain range can be seen separating the two places.

Sanglakh is defended by a joint force of Mr. Sayyaf's men and the Shiite Harakat-e-Islami faction, which has been traditionally based there.

An AFP reporter visiting Paghman Sunday found it all calm at Mr. Sayyaf's headquarters and locals expressed no fears about the Sanglakh fighting.

"Sanglakh is over 10 hours

hike away. Even the mountain pass is hidden in the clouds now," said a farmer pointing off to the south.

From their two main fronts, one located near Maidan Shahr and the other south of Kabul in Logar province, the Taliban have threatened to attack and capture the Afghan capital.

As yet no major Taliban offensive has been launched against Kabul, and it is not clear whether the current Sanglakh action is a side-show or a diversion.

Cyprus to continue arming itself — Clerides

NICOSIA (Agencies) — Cyprus staged its largest ever military parade Sunday to mark the 35th anniversary of the war-divided island's independence from British rule.

The parade, watched by thousands of Greek Cypriots at Nicosia, followed a televised anniversary message by President Glafcos Clerides in which he vowed that Cyprus would continue to arm until Turkey withdrew from the northern third of the island it occupied in 1974.

Mr. Clerides, who took the salute at the parade, said he was still standing by his two-year-old call for the total demilitarisation of the island and the replacement of rival forces with an enlarged United Nations peacekeeping force.

Turkey, which has an estimated 35,000 troops and 300 tanks in the north, rejects the demilitarisation offer.

In his Saturday night address, Mr. Clerides said: "Until our demilitarisation offer is accepted, we shall continue our weapons expansion. We will also conduct an air and a naval base and conduct even larger military exercises in cooperation with (mainland) Greek warplanes and warships."

The parade in Nicosia, broadcast live on state radio and television, came three days after the completion of an annual military exercise by the 10,000-strong conscript Greek Cypriot army with the much-publicised participation of Greek warplanes and warships for the first time since the 1974 Turkish invasion.

The invasion divided Cyprus into a Greek Cypriot south and a Turkish-occupied north and followed a short-lived coup in Nicosia said to have been masterminded by a junta then ruling in Athens and designed to unite the island with Greece.

A breakaway Turkish Cypriot state established in 1983 in the Turkish-occupied north is only recognised by Ankara.

U.N.-sponsored peace talks for the reunification of the island in a bizonal federation have made little progress to date because of differences over basic issues such as the future of the breakaway state in northern Cyprus and the withdrawal of Turkish troops from the island.

"When Turkey has turned the occupied areas of the Cyprus Republic into one of the most highly militarised areas of the world, it was and is a vital obligation and right to continue to equip the national guard and to seek a military alliance with Greece," Mr. Clerides said.

Mr. Clerides blamed the failure to reach a solution to end the division of the island on Turkey and the Turkish Cypriot leadership.

"But it is also due to a lack of decisiveness on the part of the Security Council of the U.N. to take measures to implement its resolutions on Cyprus," he said.

He reiterated that the Cyprus government was not prepared to engage in direct negotiations with the Turkish side until "common ground" was reached on basic issues relating to the problem.

Arafat orders probe into death in Jericho prison

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (AP) — Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat has ordered an investigation into the death of a Palestinian-American man who died while being questioned by Palestinian security agents, a U.S. official said Saturday.

Officials from the U.S. consulate in Jerusalem met with Palestinian security officers in Jericho to discuss Azzam Musleh, a Palestinian who gained American citizenship while spending 21 years in Dallas.

Mr. Musleh returned to his West Bank hometown four years ago and his family said that on Wednesday agents belonging to Mr. Arafat's security chief, Jabril Rajoub, took him to their Jericho headquarters.

His body was returned before dawn Friday and his family was told his 52-year-old father had died of a heart attack.

Mr. Musleh's son Shabeed, 20, said he believed his father

was tortured in detention.

U.S. officials had demanded an investigation into the case, the latest indication that Palestinian security forces are violating human rights in their zeal to curb Palestinian militants' threat to the peace process.

A statement issued Saturday by Mr. Rajoub's Jericho headquarters denied that Mr. Musleh had been detained by the Palestinian secret police.

But a delegation from the U.S. consulate said they were told Mr. Musleh had been detained for questioning on a criminal matter and that he died of a heart attack.

"They were told that Chairman Arafat has ordered a complete investigation, which has already begun," said a U.S. consulate official, speaking on condition of anonymity.

"What we are asking for is that they at least started to do. We reserve any further comment until we see the results of this investigation," the official said.

Kuwaiti unions say Yemen mission helped isolate Iraq

KUWAIT (R) — A Kuwaiti trade union federation has visited Yemen to repair relations strained by the 1990-91 Gulf crisis and increase Iraq's international isolation, a union leader said in remarks published on Sunday.

"The main achievement was getting the support of those who were once against us and supported Iraq," Kuwait Trade Union Federation President Thabet Al Haroun was quoted as saying by Al Sayaseh and its sister newspaper the Arab Times.

Mr. Haroun said he and four other federation officials made a five-day visit to Yemen last month at Yemen's invitation and had held talks with 24 Yemeni officials in the first visit there by Kuwaiti union officials since the Gulf crisis.

Kuwait's relations with Yemen and several other Arab and African states were badly strained over their perceived sympathy for Iraq during its seven-month occupation of Kuwait.

Mr. Haroun said Yemeni officials had told them Ye-

men was ready to join Kuwait in calling on Iraq to comply with all U.N. Gulf war ceasefire resolutions.

"The union took this step to block any Iraqi attempt against Kuwait and garner the support of those who backed the Iraqi invasion. We have no choice but to counteract Iraqi games that mislead Arab countries," Mr. Haroun said.

"Our meetings with various personalities proved Yemen is reconsidering its stance towards Kuwait and is ready to support Kuwaiti demands to have Iraqi abide by U.N. resolutions."

Mr. Haroun said the visit had not been officially sponsored by the Kuwaiti government and the federation had thought long and hard before going. Diplomats said the federation would probably not have gone to Yemen without the knowledge and tacit understanding of the Kuwaiti government.

The Kuwaiti government subsidises up to 90 per cent of most unions' budgets, diplomats say.

NEWS IN BRIEF

Sudan-Chad hold border talks

KHARTOUM (AFP) — Sudan and Chad began three days of ministerial talks Saturday to finalise an agreement demarcating their joint border. According to the state-run Sudan news agency SUNA, the meeting will review field work carried out by joint technical teams in 1994 and 1995 and look into the situation and rights of people affected by the process on both sides of the border. Saturday's meeting was co-chaired by interior ministers Brigadier Bakri Hassan Salih of Sudan and Mohammad Nouri of Chad. It was agreed to form technical committees to resume demarcation following the principles agreed during the first phase of the work in February. The agency quoted Brig. Salih as stressing the importance of outlining the borders to help maintain security for the people on both sides of the border. Mr. Nouri predicted that the current meetings would find solutions to problems where borders were not fully demarcated though he noted that Chad and Sudan "have never known border disputes" because, he said, the borders were the most accurate in Africa. The two sides are due to conclude a final border agreement on Monday.

Kuwait, Croatia initial investment accord

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait and Croatia have initiated an agreement aimed at promoting investment between the two countries, a Kuwaiti financial official said. Finance Ministry Assistant Under-Secretary Fawzi Al Kassar said the accord also establishes investment protection mechanisms and lays down arbitration procedures in the event of disputes. The Kuwait News Agency reported on Saturday night. The official agency reported him as saying the Croatian tourism, oil and industrial sectors were potential areas of investment for Kuwaitis. He said a number of issues remained to be clarified but he expected the accord to be signed and ratified by the Kuwaiti parliament over the next 12 months.

Kuwait to set up patent office-paper

KUWAIT (R) — Kuwait has decided to set up a patent office three decades after passage of a law requiring the establishment of such a body, a newspaper reported on Sunday. A 1962 law stipulates a patent office be set up to register inventions by Kuwaitis and others. Ministry of Commerce and Industry Assistant Under-Secretary Yousef Al Shihab was quoted by Al Qabas newspaper as saying. The law protects the rights of patent holders to exclusive production of their inventions for 15 years, he said. Mr. Shihab said the law was being implemented as a result of a 1992 Gulf Cooperation Council (GCC) decision to set up a unified patent system for the six GCC members countries of Saudi Arabia, Oman, Bahrain, Qatar, the United Arab Emirates and Kuwait. Mr. Shihab did not explain why it had taken 30 years to establish the patent office and did not say when he planned patent office would start work.

Suspected militants kill farmer in Egypt

ASSIUT (R) — Gunmen thought to be Muslim militants shot dead a farm labourer in southern Egypt, apparently as part of a campaign against police informers and their relatives, security sources said on Sunday. Saad Mahmoud Saad, 30, was working in fields on Saturday afternoon near the ancient town of Ashmounin, 260 kilometres south of Cairo, when the gunmen opened fire and fled. The militant Al Gamaa Al Islamiyah has recently escalated its attacks on suspected informers and on people who refuse to pay it protection money, the sources said. More than 840 people, mostly police and militants, have been killed in political violence in Egypt in the three years since the Gamaa launched its campaign to overthrow President Hosni Mubarak's government and establish a strict Islamic state.

Egypt to close Giza Pyramid to repair 'damage from breath'

CAIRO (R) — The second of the three Great Pyramids at Giza will be closed to visitors for three months because the moist breath of hundreds of thousands of tourists is damaging the limestone walls of the interior.

Zahi Hawass, director of antiquities on the Giza plateau, told Reuters on Sunday that during the three-month period starting Oct. 10 the antiquities department would spend up to 300,000 pounds (\$88,000) on repairs and improvements.

The pyramid is that of the fourth dynasty Pharaoh Chephren, who ruled Egypt in the 26th century B.C. It is slightly smaller than the nearby Great Pyramid of the earlier Pharaoh Cheops.

"We've found that each visitor breathes out about 20 grammes of water and the condensed water turns to salt on the limestone," said Mr. Hawass.

"We're going to put in a ventilation system, take the salt off by scraping the walls, mend the cracks and redo the electricity system," he added.

The antiquities department did the same for the Great Pyramid in 1990 and 1991 and then imposed an extra fee of 10 pounds (\$3) for seeing the burial chamber of Cheops.

Mr. Hawass said tourist companies had responded by taking their clients to the Chephren Pyramid, which had no extra fee, and the number of visitors has

Mengele sighting reported

TEL AVIV (AP) — Josef Mengele, the infamous Nazi doctor known as the "angel of death," has been spotted alive and living in Brazil, despite earlier findings that he drowned there in 1979, an Israeli daily newspaper said Sunday.

According to Yediot Ahronot, Israel's largest newspaper, an unnamed naval officer from a country in South America saw Mengele in February and said he lived in a small villa in a Brazilian village under a false name. The information was passed on to Israeli intelligence authorities, the tabloid reported.

Scepticism about Mengele's death has lingered in Israel despite an international forensic team's ruling in 1985 that the body of a man who drowned in Brazil six years before was Mengele.

Despite the ruling, reports of Mengele sightings have cropped up everywhere from Portugal to the United States.

This is the first reported sighting since April 1992, when a Frankfurt prosecutor declared Mengele dead, following final genetic tests of his remains.

If alive, Mengele would be 83.

Yediot said information about the sighting was passed on to Israel by an Israeli woman living abroad. Israel's foreign ministry and police, however, said they had not received any such information.

JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR

JORDAN TELEVISION

Tel. 773111-19

PROGRAMME TWO

14:00 Shelley Duval's Bedtime Stories

14:30 Hey Day

15:00 Survival

16:00 Families

Children's programme — Les Mondes Englouts

17:30 Telérin — Jeudi 12

18:00 News in French

18:30 Drama — Camp Wilder

20:30 The Bold and the Beautiful

21:10 Harts of the West

22:00 News in English

The Ruth Rendell's Mysteries

PRAYER TIMES

08:00 Fajr

08:26 (Sunrise) Duha

11:25 Dhur

14:00 'Asr

17:25 Maghreb

18:42 Ishu

CHURCHES

St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifish, Tel. 8107441

Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 632785

St. Joseph Church Tel. 624990

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623440

De la Salle Church Tel. 661757

Terrasanta Church Tel. 622366

Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541

Anglican Church Tel. 630851, Tel. 628543

Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331

Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 775261

St. Ephraim Church Tel. 771751

Amman International Church Tel. 625328

Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 824328

German-speaking Evangelical Congregation Tel. 661195

The Latter-Day Saints Tel. 654932

Church of Nazareth Tel. 675691

The Evangelical Local Church in Amman Tel. 811295

Min./Max. temp.

Amman 18/29

Aqaba 23 / 35

Deserts 16 / 33

Jordan Valley 21 / 34

Alquds pharmacy (—)

ZARQA: Dr. Salim Al Qaysi 981202

Khalifi pharmacy 985417

Electric Power Company 636381

RJ Flight Information 18-53200

Queen Alia Intl. Airport 08-53200

HOSPITALS

AMMAN: Hussein Medical Centre 81381332

Khalidi Maternity, J. Amn 644281/6

Akileh Maternity, J. Amn. 644281/6

Jabal Amman Maternity 642362

Malinas, J. Amman 642362

Polistine, Shmeisani 664171/4

Shmeisani Hospital 669131

University Hospital 648045

Al-Muhsajir Hospital 642279

The Islamic, Abdali 666127/7

Al-Ahli, Abdali 6641646

Italian, Al-Muhajreen 777101/3

Al-Bashir, J. Ashrafieh 775111/2

Army, Marfa 891611/5

Queen Alia Hospital 662240/51

Amal Hospital 674155

The Arab Center for Heart and Special Surgery 665199

ZARQA: Zarga Govt. Hospital (09)983323

Zarga National Hospital (09)905661

Ibn Sina Hospital (09)986732

Al Hikma Medical Hospital (09)90980

IRBID: Princess Basma Hospital (03)755555

FOR THE TRAVELLER

QUEEN ALIA INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT

This information is supplied by Royal Jordanian (RJ) information department at the Queen Alia International Airport Tel. (09)3200-5, where it should always be verified.

ARRIVALS

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

07:30 Sanaa (RJ)

08:00 Damascus (RJ)

08:50 New Delhi (RJ)

09:30 Jeddah (RJ)

09:10 Dubai, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

09:15 Agaba (RJ)

09:30 Beirut (RJ)

09:30 New Delhi (RJ)

16:15 Cairo (RJ)

16:05 New Amsterdam (RJ)

18:05 Bangkok (RJ)

18:10 Casablanca, Tunis (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

12:40 Muscat, Abu Dhabi (GF)

13:30 Kiev (6U)

17:45 Paris, Damascus (AF)

18:30 Cairo (MS)

21:50 London (BA)

01:25 Amsterdam (KL)

DEPARTURES

Royal Jordanian (RJ) Flights (Terminal 1)

05:40 Beirut (RJ)

07:50 Agaba (RJ)

11:30 Amsterdam, Chicago (RJ)

12:10 Cairo (RJ)

12:20 Frankfurt (RJ)

12:25 London (RJ)

20:45 Damascus (RJ)

21:15 Bahrain, Doha (RJ)

21:30 Dubai, Muscat (RJ)

21:30 'Al Ain, Abu Dhabi (RJ)

Other Flights (Terminal 2)

05:00 Istanbul (TK)

05:35 London (RJ)

06:30 Rome (AZ)

07:45 Beirut (ME)

13:30 Bahrain, Abu Dhabi, Muscat (GF)

14:30 Kiev (6U)

17:50 Cairo (MS)

20:10 Doha (Q7)

22:10 London (BA)

02:30 Damascus, London (BA)

02:30 Amsterdam (KL)

HIJAZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Dep. Amman 8:00 every Monday

Arr. Damascus 5:00 p.m. every Monday

Dep. Damascus 7:30 a.m. every Sunday

Arr. Amman 5:40 p.m. every Sunday

MARKET PRICES

Upper/lower price in fil per kg.

Apple 650 / 450

Banana 600

Banana (Mukammal) 620

Carbage 200 / 150

Cauliflower 300 / 200

Cucumber (large) 200 / 120

Cucumber (small) 120 / 200

Eggplant 270 / 200

Garlic 720 / 500

Grape 720 / 500

Guava 600 / 500

Lemon 720 / 500

Marrow (large) 200 / 120

Marrow (small) 300 / 200

Mushroom 100 / 700

Okra 400 / 750

Onion (dry) 230 / 180

Orange 500 / 400

Pepper (hot) 230 / 180

Pepper (sweet) 720 / 500

Pomegranate 350 / 250

Potato 280 / 200

Spinach 300 / 200

String Beans 800 / 700

Tomato 100 / 700

Water 100 / 700

Queen inaugurates 9th United World College, opens Jordanian art exhibition in Norway

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor, the President of the United World Colleges (UWC), inaugurated Friday the ninth Red Cross and Red Crescent Nordic College in Fjaler, Norway, a Royal Court statement said.

Students at the eight UWCs, located in Wales, Italy, Canada, Singapore, United States, Swaziland, Hong Kong and Norway, study for the International Baccalaureate degree, a pre-university qualification, while the ninth college in Venezuela offers a three-year diploma course in farm management and rural development, according to the statement.

During her stay in Norway, Queen Noor explored the possibility of establishing a UWC in the Middle East, the statement said.

The UWCs, which select students from throughout the world based on merit, awarding the majority scholarships, have emphasised diverse community service programmes within their educational curricula.

During the opening ceremony, Chairman of the UWC Mark Hoffman said that the UWC was fortunate to have gained the Queen as their new president who is "wise, intelligent, caring and with the energy to match the youthful vigour of the United World Colleges," the statement said.

In her speech, Queen Noor observed that it was appropriate to establish a UWC in Norway, the country which awards the Nobel Peace Prize and "whose contributions to the Middle East peace process will always be remembered."

She praised the UWC's educational philosophy of "enlightened internationalism and global solidarity" saying that "the most valuable lesson which students will acquire from a UWC education is respect for pluralism, an enduring sense of community with fellow men and women from many other lands, and an understanding of the shared destiny of our human family."

She expressed her hope that the Arab World, which currently accounts for only one per cent of the UWC graduates, will play a more vital role in UWC's future through exchanges of administrators, teachers and students, the statement said.

Queen Noor noted that the philosophy of the Jubilee School mirrors many of the UWC's values and reflects Jordan's "commitment to equal opportunity for all Jordanians to develop their potential and to contribute to more balanced national development."

She added that the aim of such academic institutions is not merely "to graduate educated young people," but to "graduate educated young activists for peace and justice."

The Patron of the Nordic UWC Queen Sonja of Norway concluded the opening ceremony saying that the United World Colleges are distinguished by their dual approach, "pride in one's own culture and willingness to learn about others," according to the statement.

The Red Crescent Nordic College, which currently enrolls 105 scholarship students from 67 countries including Jordan, places a special emphasis on environmental and humanitarian concerns.

With the help of the Red Cross, most of its students are selected from refugee camps, developing countries and Central and Eastern Europe. Its academic curriculum highlights environmental concerns as the college works in close cooperation with the Regional Government Ecological Department and the local State Agricultural Research Station.

As part of their community service programme, the students befriend and help the physically and mentally challenged patients at the Red Cross Centre for Rehabilitation and Training located near the college campus.

The college aims to integrate physically disabled students within its student body, the statement said.

Later that evening Queen Noor attended a reception in her honour organised by the Lord Mayor of Bergen at Hukonshallen, a thirteenth century palace museum, according to the statement.

Queen Noor concluded her two-day trip to Norway by opening Sunday the exhibition of Jordanian contemporary art entitled "Encounters II" at the West Norway Museum of Applied Art.

The show is a sequel to "Encounters I," the Norwegian Cultural Week held in Jordan last May under the Queen's patronage.

The exhibition featured paintings by Her Royal Highness Princess Wijdan Ali, Ammar Khammash, Nawal Abdullah and Khalid Khreis, which were chosen by the Abdul Hameed Shoban Foundation's Darat Al Funun.

The statement said that Queen Noor expressed her hope that the series of varied cultural and artistic exchanges will be the beginning of a long and rich journey of mutual discovery for both countries.

Both "Encounters" were sponsored by the Norwegian Cultural Foundations 3, 14, Jørgensen Thun Mangement, Alcatel Kabel Norway and Anstrian Airlines, the statement said.

Rift valley development feasibility study awarded to international consortium

U.S. grants Jordan \$1.8m to study potential for Wadi Mousa waste water treatment plant

By Ramadan Rawashdeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A tender for the second stage of the feasibility study on the development of the Jordan Rift Valley has been awarded to a consortium of U.S., British, Israeli and Italian firms, Ministry of Water and Irrigation Secretary General Qusay Quteishat Sunday announced.

The study is being funded through a \$3 million grant from the Italian government through the World Bank, said Mr. Quteishat.

The study will explore the possibility of opening a Red Sea-Dead Sea canal as well as the prospect of creating lakes in the Jordan Valley and transport and telecommunications projects in that region, according to the secretary general.

The study, which will take 18 months to complete, will have to be approved by the World Bank, according to Mr. Quteishat.

This study will not be among the projects to be submitted to the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference but will be presented as an achievement of the Jordan-Israel peace treaty signed last October, Mr. Quteishat said.

The first stage of the development of the Jordan Rift Valley entailed a collection of data and preliminary information on the

region, according to Mr. Quteishat.

A meeting of the steering committee for the Jordan Valley, which groups representatives of Jordan, Israel and the U.S., will be held here prior to the MENA conference to review studies on projects in the valley, the secretary general said.

Meanwhile, under an agreement concluded here Sunday the U.S. government will provide a grant of \$1.85 million to cover the full cost of a feasibility study and engineering design for a waste water treatment project in the Wadi Mousa area.

The agreement, signed by Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat and the U.S. engineering consulting firm Camp Dresser and McKee International (CDM), was attended by William Oliver, director of the U.S. Agency for International Development (USAID) in Jordan.

The project is the first of its kind in the Wadi Mousa area, where the ancient city of Petra lies.

According to USAID, the project entails constructing a water collection and distribution system for the Wadi Mousa area and building a wastewater treatment plant.

The feasibility study includes an assessment of environmental impact to ensure preservation and conservation of the archaeological and historical heritage of Petra and its surroundings, the agency said.

The aid is part of a \$42 million USAID grant to the ministry to help improve water quality and preservation of water resources in the Kingdom, Dr. Irsheidat said.

It is regrettable, however, that the study on this project will take two and a half years to complete and the implementation of the project will not run simultaneously with current efforts to build new hotels and tourist facilities in Wadi Mousa, Dr. Irsheidat said.

USAID has allocated \$7.5 million for the construction of the waste water treatment plant and the sewerage system, said Dr. Irsheidat.

The agency is also funding a project to upgrade the efficiency of the Khirbat Al Samra waste water treatment plant near Zarqa, according to the minister.



Minister of Water and Irrigation Saleh Irsheidat and a representative of Camp Dresser and McKee International, an American engineering consulting firm, Sunday sign an agreement for a feasibility study on a waste water treatment plant for the Wadi Mousa area (Petra photo)



Minister of Municipal Affairs Nader Thuheirat Sunday presides over a seminar on the role of municipal councils in local development (Petra photo)

Minister urges mayors to develop council services, meet residents' needs

AMMAN (Petra) — Minister of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment Nader Thuheirat Sunday opened a seminar on the role of municipal councils in local development by urging mayors and their council members to develop council services and meet the growing needs of the local communities.

The local councils serve as a major tool for developing local communities socially and economically and in enhancing public participation in community-related schemes and are also responsible for carrying out measures aimed at safeguarding the environment, said the minister who deputised for His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, the Regent.

The councils shoulder a serious responsibility in carrying out the government's decentralisation plans and in helping the country meet the requirements of socio-economic development, said the minister at the opening session of the two day meeting organised for heads of councils in the Amman region.

The meetings are organised by the Institute for Public Administration in cooperation with the Ministry of Municipal and Rural Affairs and the Environment.

10 children hurt in school bus mishap

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Ten kindergarten children were discharged from a Ramtha hospital after treatment for third degree burns suffered when they were exposed to hot radiator water from a bus, police said Sunday.

According to police reports, the toddlers were being taken home on Saturday when the vehicle became overheated and the driver, identified as Khaled B., stopped the bus, and opened the radiator, which is located near driver's seat.

The reports said that as soon as the radiator cap was removed, hot water spewed out, burning the driver and the children.

According to hospital officials, six of the children were treated for third degree burns and were discharged the same day. The other four, they added, were discharged on Sunday and were listed in good condition.

The bus driver was listed in serious condition and was still being treated in hospital.

Festive firing on the rise

Statistics released by police said incidents of festive firing, most often during weddings, were on the increase.

Twenty-five incidents of festive firing were reported in August.

During the same month, nine other incidents of mishandling of weapons and three others involving accidental firing of guns (while the weapons were being cleaned) were also reported.

A total of 23 people were injured in the incidents, according to police statistics.

Police reiterated a warning to the public that weapons should not be fired during weddings or any other festive occasions, because most often such firings lead to casualties.

State Security Court again postpones trial in French envoy attack case

By Rana Hussein
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — The trial of two Jordanians involved in an attack on a French diplomat was again postponed Sunday because one of the three judges at the State Security Court was still unwell.

No new date was announced, but according to judicial sources, the court is expected to announce a new date for the trial today or tomorrow.

The indisposed judge has left hospital and is expected to report to court tomorrow (Monday) or Tuesday at the latest, the source told the Jordan Times.

The two suspects were arrested after a Feb. 14 incident in which a French diplomat was shot and wounded in the Wadi Mujib area.

The formal charges against the two include "plotting to carry out extremist attacks, possessing illegal arms and explosives, and manufacturing hand-made explosives."

The court is expected to announce a new date for another case also recently postponed, that of Bay'at Al Imam (Pledge of allegiance to the leader), a

group accused of plotting terrorist attacks in Jordan.

The State Court is also expected to set a date for a new trial of six people also accused of plotting sabotage in Jordan, the source told the Jordan Times.

The six defendants, said to be part of a group called

"Islamic Revival," last week were formally charged by the prosecutor general of illegal possession and manufacturing of explosives materials with the purpose of using them illegally.

'Press centre readies for MENA summit'

AMMAN (Petra) — The Ministry of Information and its affiliated departments involved in final preparations for the convening of the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference later this month has made arrangements for at least 500 local and foreign journalists who are expected to cover the event, Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Information Khaled Karaki said Sunday.

Speaking after he had formally opened a seminar at the Amra Hotel to inform the media on Jordan's preparations for the conference opening on Oct. 29, Dr. Karaki said the press centre, being set up at Al Hussein Sports City, is being fitted with the necessary equipment to enable correspondents of television networks and the press to provide up-to-minute coverage of the meetings.

At least 300 foreign journalists are expected to converge in Amman for this conference which is expected to offer a great opportunity for the Kingdom to display its hospitality to its guests and reflect its true image to the outside

world, added the minister.

In opening the seminar earlier, the minister welcomed the journalists and invited them to convey to the world the country's readiness to receive investors in various economic fields.

He stressed that the Ministry of Information will offer them all the facilities to enable them to carry out their mission as best as possible.

Chairman of the conference's preparatory committee Umayya Tougan addressed the audience saying that Jordan has made preparations for welcoming 1,100 participants representing the private sectors in different countries of the world who will take part in up to 40 sessions during the three-day conference.

Noting that the conference is being convened for what he called the rehabilitation of the Middle East economy, Dr. Tougan said it is hoped that the meeting will help enhance the climate of investments.

But he cautioned against excessive optimism or pessimism over the conference's outcome.

AZ RAILWAY TRAIN

Amman - Zarqa - Amman

Train No. 101 (Amman to Zarqa)

Train No. 102 (Zarqa to Amman)

MARKET PRICES

Item	Price
Wheat (100 kg)	120.00
Barley (100 kg)	80.00
Maize (100 kg)	100.00
Soybean (100 kg)	150.00
Groundnut (100 kg)	180.00
Mustard (100 kg)	160.00
Linseed (100 kg)	140.00
Castor (100 kg)	120.00
Sesame (100 kg)	110.00
Alfalfa (100 kg)	60.00
Hay (100 kg)	50.00
Straw (100 kg)	30.00

WHAT'S GOING ON

FILM	FAIR
* A children's film at the Goethe Institute, Jabal Amman at 6.00 pm.	* Display of Algerian products at Amman International Exhibit at Marj Al Hamam (11:00 a.m. - 8:00 p.m.)
* "Les Roseaux Sauvages" at the French Cultural Centre at 8.00 pm.	EXHIBITIONS
* "Gypsies Rise to Heavens," at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art at 7.30 p.m.	* Photography exhibition "Islam in Spain" at Instituto Cervantes, Jabal Amman
POETRY RECITAL	* Abstract art by the Syrian artist Mohammad Daghestani at the Phoenix Gallery.
* Recital of poems by Shawqi Abdul Amin at the Phoenix Gallery for Culture and Art, at 7.30 p.m.	* Jordanian-Syrian Turkish products at King Abdullah Gardens, Al Bassam Hall.
	* Works by Lamia Abdel Sahib and Samer Ousama entitled "Aux Sources Orientales de la Fontaine," at the French Cultural Centre.

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Golden Chocolate	CJC	Investment Bank	Al Fadda Bin Hassan Street	Body Reform	Business Bank	Shmeissani	Hayo Center	Swahil V. Al Ayman	Luthana

India studies polls in Kashmir; Muslim militants vow sabotage

SRINAGAR, India (AFP)

India's Election Commission is studying the possibility of holding elections in Kashmir, a top official said Sunday, but Muslim separatists vowed to sabotage any attempt at a ballot.

Deputy Election Commissioner M.S. Gill said a decision on holding polls for the Kashmir legislature would be taken after studying New Delhi's assessment of the situation in the strife-torn state.

"I can't give you a date," when elections would be held, Mr. Gill told reporters at the end of a three-day visit to Kashmir, where a bloody Muslim separatist campaign has claimed more than 12,000 lives by official count since 1989.

"(We need) a little more time and are awaiting information and reports from the government of India," Mr. Gill said after extensive talks with top Kashmir officials and mainstream political parties.

Kashmir, India's only

Muslim-majority state, ruled directly by New Delhi since 1990, last held legislative elections in 1987.

Mr. Gill's visit was marred by a protest shut-down called by Muslim militants opposed to elections in Kashmir, and Muslim leaders on Sunday vowed to sabotage Indian-sponsored polls in the northern state.

"We shall never allow elections to take place," the all-party Freedom Conference, an umbrella grouping of more than 30 Muslim separatist groups said.

"Kashmiris are fighting for self-determination, and that is our goal," a conference spokesman said.

Ali Shah Geelani, who heads the fundamentalist Jamiat-E-Islami, said Kashmiris would boycott elections if they were held, and added that the ballot would anyhow never solve the Kashmir conflict.

"So many elections have been held in Kashmir since India's independence in 1947, he told AFP. "Did

they solve the Kashmir problem?"

Shabir Shah, an influential Muslim leader, echoed his sentiments: "So many thousands of Kashmiris have not sacrificed their lives to take part in elections."

A strike called by the Al-Umar Mujahideen rebel group to protest Mr. Gill's visit paralysed the Kashmir Valley Saturday. Shops, banks, businesses and post offices were shut across the region, while virtually all civilian traffic went off the roads in Srinagar, the state summer capital.

"The (Kashmiri) people have demonstrated that they have no interest in any political process or election sponsored by India," Mr. Umar said in a statement.

Mr. Gill, however, criticised the shutdown, saying Muslim groups opposed to elections should have met him.

"Democracy is all about differing, disagreeing, and finding out common acceptable positions," he said. "I would have liked to meet

(Muslim separatist leaders)," he added.

On Saturday, Kashmir's Governor K.V. Krishna Rao told Mr. Gill during a lengthy meeting that the state administration was ready to hold elections to the 82-seat legislature any time.

Mr. Gill refused to comment on Mr. Rao's statement, saying a decision on Kashmir elections would be taken by the autonomous election commission in New Delhi. He did not say when.

The government of Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao had earlier toyed with the prospect of holding the polls in July this year, but later bowed to objections from Indian political parties.

The Kashmir chapter of Mr. Rao's Congress (I) Party is insisting on early elections while the pro-India National Conference Party, which once ruled Kashmir, wants greater autonomy as a condition for taking part in the polls.



CEZANNE EXHIBITION: A crowd waits to enter the Grande Palais for the opening day of the Paul Cezanne exhibition in Paris. This retrospective is the largest since 1936 where one can see 109 paintings, 42 watercolours and 26 drawings (AFP photo)

Nearly 150 die in Bangladesh floods

DHAKA (R) — Nearly 150 people have been killed and more than 100 injured in five days of floods caused by heavy rain in northern Bangladesh, local officials said Sunday.

Most of the deaths were in the worst-hit district of Dinajpur, where paramilitary troops rescued nearly 15,000 people in the past two days but thousands were still marooned.

Victims were trapped in mud houses that collapsed during and after the rain. "The mud structures gave in just like a house of cards. Many residents were trapped in their sleep," one Dinajpur official said.

He said some people drowned as their homes and belongings were swept into the fast rising rivers.

The state-run Dainik Bangladesh newspapers said 140 people died in

Dinajpur alone, where floodwaters started receding Sunday after the rainfall dropped off.

Authorities called in troops Saturday to help rescue 1.3 million people marooned in far-off areas. They also opened nearly 20 shelters in Dinajpur and neighbouring districts, officials said.

They blamed the floods partly on India's Farakka Barrage, near Bangladesh's northern border in Rajshahi district, saying Indian authorities opened the sluice gates to release floodwaters into the downstream of the Ganges River, which is called the Padma in Bangladesh.

This report could not be independently confirmed.

The floods destroyed crops on nearly 150,000 acres (60,000 hectares), agriculture officials said.

An official in the Rajshahi district said Sunday that boro, a variety of rice, in another 250,000 acres (100,000 hectares) in the Barendra farming project were badly threatened.

"Vast areas of boro crops are under water for five days. If they remain under water for two or three more days, I suspect the crops will be totally lost," one project official told a reporter.

Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia flew to some of the affected districts, including Dinajpur, Saturday and distributed relief goods. She asked local officials to be on standby for any emergencies if the flooding worsened.

In July and August, floods killed nearly 250 people across Bangladesh, according to official figures.

Opposition disarray benefits Rao

NEW DELHI (R) — India's two main opposition groups are in disarray, beset by arguing and internal dissent, giving Prime Minister P.V. Narasimha Rao an unexpected bonus as he prepares for general elections next year.

"It's good news for us," Vital Gadhgil, the spokesman for India's ruling Congress Party, told Reuters Sunday.

"Now it looks like we will get a majority, a slight one maybe, but an overall majority."

The major victim of the past week has been the Hindu nationalist Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP), which until recently looked on track to become the largest party after the elections which must be held before July.

A revolt in party ranks has caught the BJP completely unaware in its showcase western state of Gujarat, which it swept in a landslide only six months ago and was meant to be a model of BJP government.

By week's end, stunned BJP officials faced the very real prospect that the split might lose them control of the state.

With the expelled rebel

BJP leader Shankarsinh Vaghela insisting he commanded the loyalty of almost half the party cau-

cus, the governor of Gujarat gave Chief Minister Keshubhai Patel a week to prove his majority in the state assembly.

The vote is likely to be a close thing. The BJP holds 121 seats in the 182-member assembly, meaning Mr. Patel needs to win back half the defectors to stay in power.

The crisis in Gujarat came on the heels of a growing rift between the BJP and the Bahujan Samaj Party (BSP) which it is propping up in Uttar Pradesh, India's most populous state.

The BJP, anxious to shed its image as an upper-caste Hindu party and broaden its appeal before the elections, has been supporting the BSP government, which represents the Dalits or outcasts, the lowest rung of India's caste-driven society.

Uttar Pradesh returns 85 of the 545 members of the Indian parliament, and the BJP has been hoping to extend its control over this block, but increasing friction between the two parties has put the continuing existence of the alliance in jeopardy.

Relations between the

BJP and its coalition partners in the industrial state of Maharashtra, the Shiv Sena, are also tense as negotiations continue over how many seats each party will

contest in the elections.

But the BJP is not alone in its problems.

The National Front-Left Front Alliance suffered a serious blow in August when one of its leaders and a possible prime ministerial candidate, former film star N.T. Rama Rao, was topped as chief minister of the southern state of Andhra Pradesh in a rebellion led by members of his own family.

In the neighbouring state of Karnataka, another leading alliance figure, Chief Minister H.D. Deve, is also facing a growing rebellion in the ranks of his Janata Dal Party which could threaten his wafer-thin majority in the state assembly.

For Congress, which lost a swathe of state elections over the past year and whose re-election prospects had until recently been all but written off, the developments are welcome.

Prime Minister Rao is expected to announce a reshuffle of state governors this week and to fill gaps in the Congress Working Committee, the party's top body, as part of the preparations for the elections.

"These developments will help Congress in many ways," said Mr. Gadhgil. "Things are looking good."

Karachi paralysed by strike, violence

KARACHI, Pakistan (R)

Three people were shot dead overnight as an anti-government strike, arson and violence shut down the industrial port city of Karachi Sunday, witnesses and police said.

The three were killed in districts east and central and 18 vehicles were burned as masked gunmen enforced the strike overnight, police and ambulance volunteers said.

At least five people were wounded by gunfire in the central, west and east districts Sunday, the police said.

The strike was called by the ethnic Mohajir National Movement (MQM) to protest alleged killings by Rangers and police of three of its activists in custody.

Major shopping centres and business houses, educational institutions and bank branches remained closed because commuters could not get to work after public transport was pulled off the roads for fear of arson.

The Karachi Stock Exchange, the private Cotton Association and foreign exchange dealers closed due to thin attendance following lack of public transport, dealers said.

Violence erupted Saturday night when gunmen fired in the air and burned buses in protest against what they said was police repression.

More than 140 policemen have been killed in Karachi this year compared with 80 in 1994. They were among 1,523 people who have died this year in ethnic, sectarian and political bloodshed.

The latest surge in violence followed a decision by the MQM to boycott scheduled talks last Tuesday with Prime Minister Benazir Bhutto's government in protest what it says are extra-judicial killings and torture of its supporters by the security forces.

The MQM-government talks have dragged on since July 11 without any apparent breakthrough in the effort to halt the bloodletting in Pakistan's biggest city.

The MQM is trying to win more political and economic rights for the Mohajir community dominating Karachi and some other towns in Sind province. Mohajirs are Urdu-speaking Muslims who fled to Pakistan from

Georgia ex-minister said behind Shevardnadze assassination attempt

TBILISI (R) — Georgian authorities accused former Security Minister Igor Georgadze and Russian "extremists" Sunday of masterminding a recent failed attempt to kill leader Eduard Shevardnadze.

"The failed attempt on the life of the head of state Shevardnadze was planned by the chief of the security service, Igor Georgadze," Interior Minister Shota Kviraya told a meeting of regional and security officials.

In a bombshell disclosure, Mr. Kviraya suggested Mr. Georgadze had acted on the orders of "reactionary forces" in Russia.

"Georgadze is very close with (Russian President Boris) Yeltsin's opponents," he said.

Mr. Shevardnadze, who escaped the attack with facial cuts, showed no emotion as he sat through the speech.

Mr. Georgadze, who fled to Moscow shortly after being fired following the Aug. 29 bomb attack, is to be extradited to Georgia from Russia, Acting Security Minister Avtonid Ioseliani told Reuters.

"Russia will allow us to bring him to Georgia. Then it will be clear exactly who was behind him," Ioseliani said, adding that Russian "extremists" were the most likely culprits.

Mr. Kviraya also accused Mr. Georgadze of being behind a spate of recent political killings, including the murder of popular oppo-

sition politician, Georgy Chanturia, and said he had ordered a prior assassination attempt on Mr. Shevardnadze which was foiled.

"The recent terrorist acts in the republic were carried out if not on the orders of Georgadze then under the cover of his special services," he said. Mr. Georgadze's former deputy Temur Khachishvili and Georgy Gelshtvili, a top official in the Mkhedrioni (Horsemen) paramilitary group, have already been accused in the August attack on Mr. Shevardnadze.

Mr. Kviraya described in minute detail the planning of the bomb attack, which set cars ablaze and blew out windows around the parliament building in the centre of the capital Tbilisi.

He alleged that it was crafted at the home of Mr. Georgadze's father, Pantemelon Georgadze, who is running against Mr. Shevardnadze as Communist Party candidate in Georgia's Nov. 5 elections.

He did not say what if any role Pantemelon Georgadze played or whether he would be charged in the blast.

Mr. Kviraya said the powerful bomb, planted in a Russian four-wheel-drive vehicle, was detonated by remote control by a Georgadze associate after the security guards around the brown marble building were compromised.

Officials close to the

investigation have hinted in recent days that Mr. Georgadze was about to be fingered in the attack and that he might have acted in collusion with "dark forces" in Russia.

One source told Reuters that Mr. Shevardnadze had discussed the matter at length with Russian Prime Minister Victor Chernomyrdin and Defence Minister Pavel Grachev during their September visit to Georgia.

"Shevardnadze explained the whole thing, the connections between Georgadze and extremist forces in Russia. They and Yeltsin agreed to back him on it, partially because it might allow them to discredit the nationalists and Communists," said the source, who asked not to be named.

Russia holds parliamentary polls on Dec. 17, and Communist and nationalist parties are expected to do well.

Mr. Shevardnadze has no shortage of enemies in Russia, who despise him for the massive Soviet arms cuts and troop pullouts from Eastern Europe he helped design as Soviet foreign minister under Mikhail Gorbachev.

In an open letter to Mr. Shevardnadze, published last week in the conservative Russian daily Sovetskaya Rossiya, Georgadze called his old boss a tyrant and vowed never to return to Georgia while he ruled.

Actors Branagh, Thompson to separate

LONDON (R) — Kenneth

Branagh and Emma Thompson, dubbed Britain's golden showbusiness couple, said they had drifted apart and were to separate amicably after six years of marriage. "It is with great sadness that we have decided to separate. Our work has inevitably led to our spending long periods of time away from each other and as a result we've drifted apart," they said in a statement after a Sunday newspaper broke the news. "The separation is entirely amicable but, as with the breakdown of any relationship, it is painful for both of us," Thompson, 35, won an Oscar for her role in the film "Howards End. Branagh, 34, is best known for numerous Shakespearean roles on stage and on film. His latest role, Iago, will soon be seen in a screen version of Othello.

Dudley Moore's wife says marriage is over

LONDON (AP) — Dudley

Moore's fourth marriage is over after 18 months, and his wife is trying to sell her story, a British newspaper quoted her as saying. Moore says all is well. Nicole Rothschild, 31, was quoted in the News Of The World Sunday as saying the star of the movies "Arthur and 10" had moved out of their house in Newport Beach, California, leaving her to care for their three-month-old son, Nicholas. "I want money to talk about my marriage to Dudley," the newspaper quoted Ms. Rothschild, 31, as saying. "You see, I have a prenuptial agreement with him, do if it ends I don't get a penny." The News Of The World declined to pay her the \$150,000 asking price. "There's a lot the world doesn't know about Dudley, that's for sure," it quoted Ms. Rothschild as saying.

Retiree tells how he bluffs his way into presidential company

PARIS (AP) — He's managed to get himself photographed on a staircase with actress Sharon Stone, outside a palace with actor Michael Douglas and at a garden party with opera diva Barbara Hendricks. But Claude Khazizian, a balding and unassuming retired bookkeeper, really started turning heads when he took his gate-crashing hobby to the French presidential palace. In Le Monde, Mr. Khazizian tells how he managed to pull off his ultimate publicity stunt — standing directly behind President Jacques Chirac and former President Francois Mitterrand on May 8 after bluffing his way past heavy security. His feat — and their failure to protect France's two most important men — was immortalised in widely distributed press photographs. "It was a super day... A great vintage," said Mr. Khazizian, who described how he slipped past guards into the Elysee Palace gardens and the company of the presidents of Kazakhstan and Armenia. "We talked about the problems in Estonia," he said. Later, they all dined together on lobster and sipped from 1945 vintage bottles of Mouton-Rothschild. The climax came when he was photographed with the two French presidents, who were hosting 61 heads of state in a celebration of the 50th anniversary of the end of World War II. "At the moment of the photograph, I couldn't turn around," he said. "No one knew who I was. I felt a little twinge in my heart. (Senegal President) Abdou Diouf remarked to me that I was taller than he. Then I found myself behind Mitterrand and Chirac."

Poll: Americans welcome Perot's 3rd party

NEW YORK (AFP) —

Fifty-four per cent of voters believe billionaire independent Ross Perot's launch of a third party is a political plus, but just 27 per cent want him to be the party's candidate, a new poll showed Saturday.

The Time/CNN survey instead found that 47 per cent of those polled wanted retired General Colin Powell to be the new Independence Party's standard bearer.

Among those who identified themselves as independent voters, support for Gen. Powell rose to 55 per

cent.

If he ran for president as an independent, Gen. Powell would beat Democrat President Bill Clinton and Republican hopeful Bob Dole by 36 per cent to 28 and 23 per cent, respectively, according to the poll.

The former chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, who does not have a formal party affiliation, also would defeat Sen. Dole for the Republican nomination by 29 per cent to 25 per cent margin, the poll showed.

Gen. Powell also led in

terms of general public approval ratings, with a 60 per cent positive rating, the poll showed. Mr. Clinton had a 54 per cent positive rating, versus 44 per cent for Sen. Dole.

If Gen. Powell were not in the race, Mr. Clinton would defeat Sen. Dole in a two-way Democrat-Republican race, 45 to 39 per cent, the survey found.

The survey of 1,000 people by telephone on Sept. 27-28 had a margin of error of plus or minus three per cent.

Poll: Britons want end to Diana's miserable marriage

LONDON (R) — Most Britons think Prince Charles and Princess Diana can never be reconciled and should divorce, according to a poll conducted after newspapers accused Princess Diana of a role in the marriage break-up of rugby star Will Carling.

The Sunday Express said 62 per cent of those asked thought the heir to the throne and the glamorous princess, whose often saintly image has taken a battering this week, should put their failed marriage out of its misery and divorce now.

Eighty-two per cent believed the marriage had broken down irretrievably. Princess Diana won the public's sympathy when she and Prince Charles separated in 1992 after 11 years together but her image as the unloved and wronged princess has been tarnished by a string of rumours about close friendships with often married men.

The latest scandal, broken by tabloid newspapers which claimed Princess Diana and Carling had held secret trysts, appears to have done neither of them any good.

Princess Diana, 34, has rejected responsibility for the break-up of the England rugby captain's 14-month

marriage to television presenter Julia, which was announced Thursday, a day before the latest ICM poll was conducted.

But the latest in a row of alleged flirtations with other women's men has helped cast the fairy-tale princess as a dangerous manipulator.

In a thinly-veiled reference to Princess Diana, 30-year-old Julia Carling said she faced losing her husband "in a manner which has become outside my control".

But Princess Diana, speaking to the press through friends, said she only learned of the marriage bust-up through television news reports, and branded Carling a fool.

Carling, 29, a dark, handsome rugby player who has captained his country 53 times, appears to have been dazzled by Princess Diana's glamour, telephoning her and meeting her behind his wife's back.

One former girlfriend told the People newspaper how Carling "can't resist powerful women and has an obsession for blondes".

The same paper said Carling had consulted an "oriental mystic" to predict his own and Princess Diana's futures.

The friend Carling was staying with at the weekend told reporters the rugby star was determined to save his marriage and had vowed never to meet Princess Diana again.

Carling follows married London art dealer Oliver Hoare, soldier James Hewitt and dashing marketing executive James Gilbey, who all became involved with Princess Diana but ended up losers.

Mr. Hoare complained to police about nuisance calls last year and Mr. Gilbey's former girlfriend committed suicide after his intimate phone calls with Princess Diana were made public.

"The princess is now in grave danger of being seen as a cynical manipulator of men," the Times wrote Saturday.

In an editorial titled "Di's spell is danger for men" the once-loyal Sun tabloid said the princess appeared to care about no-one but herself.

Agony aunts recalled Diana's unhappy childhood after her mother left home and her father married a woman she disliked. She then married Prince Charles only to discover later that he never really loved her, preferring old flame Camilla Parker-Bowles.



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Fissioning power at U.N.

U.S. SECRETARY of State Warren Christopher's address to the new session of the U.N. General Assembly which opened a few days ago was no ordinary speech in the sense that it represented the views of the dominant power in the international organisation. Naturally all ears were tuned to the words of Mr. Christopher in a bid to decipher any possible shift in Washington's policies in the international and regional arenas. But one of the most striking features of his statement was his clear-cut call for permanent seats on the U.N. Security Council for both Japan and Germany.

There has been much talk in recent times about expanding the Council especially in terms of adding to the list of permanent seats other power brokers in the world. Tokyo and Bonn were the natural candidates because of their economic clout. Because other regions of the world were also expecting to be accorded recognition equivalent to occupying such seats, however, the U.S. secretary of state merely hinted that there is still unfinished business in the quest for an expanded Security Council. Mr. Christopher did not mention the "other" regions by name naturally because he knew that there still were wide disagreements among the countries of Latin America, Africa and Asia on which state(s) from their respective continents should speak on their behalf.

Yet we see that the greatest challenge to a more democratically constituted Council lies not so much in who should represent these others areas of the world, but rather in the U.N. Charter which still bestows on certain select group of countries veto powers. In this context, the Charter needs to be amended and exactly in the area of the veto vote which allows any single country among the five permanent members to freeze or neutralise international action on any particular situation or conflict. Instead of the veto power which can be arbitrarily exercised by one or the other permanent members, we would like to see resolutions adopted by, for instance, a two-thirds majority vote without any certain capital having the privilege of undoing what the other Council members would like to do. At the same time we see no problem in having permanent members drawn from a list of the most powerful countries, but this issue must not necessarily be linked with the exercise of a veto power. This is in fact what the General Assembly should address in its current session. There are not many issues that are more important than this one on the Assembly's agenda for this year.

ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

COMMENTING ON the continued expulsion of Palestinians from Libya, a writer in Al-Dustour said what Libyan leader Muammar Qaddafi is doing cannot be stopped by articles in the Arab press. Experience has proved that Arab leaders do not fear the press and are intent to stop their arbitrary measures when faced with criticism, said Taher Al Adwan. The Libyan measures ought to be confronted with a collective Arab action led by the Arab League, especially Lebanon and Syria because these countries maintain strong ties with the Libyan regime, said the writer. The Arab governments ought to open their eyes to the statements of Israeli leaders who continue to reject any discussion on the repatriation of refugees and the creation of a Palestine state, which can absorb refugees, said the writer. Indeed, a collective pan-Arab action would prevent the shelving of the refugees question and would stop any foreign powers from imposing a solution to the refugees' problem on the Arab World, added the writer.

IN VIEW of the growing and great demand on university education, a writer in Al-Rai daily called on the government to pave the way for the emergence of an open university which can provide correspondence education saying that this practice has been proved successful in Britain and the Arab World, where the Al-Quds Open University has been operating for the past decade. Ahmad Arif said that Jordan ought to benefit from this experience in other countries and extend bridges of cooperation with such institutions through the Ministry of Higher Education. The writer said an open university enables a multitude of citizens to obtain higher education while working and earning a living and will no doubt end the problems normally created every summer when the universities open the door to a limited number of students, said the writer.

Human Rights File

By Dr. Waleed Sa'adi

A more effective way to deal with human rights

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL (AI) formally proposed the creation of an international tribunal to try violators of grave human rights by exercising jurisdiction over serious human rights abuses whenever and wherever they occur. The key element in this AI idea is the jurisdictional point, which would make human rights violators accountable internationally even when they are not so domestically. This suggestion, therefore, would call for the articulation and adoption of an international convention that countries would be invited to adhere to and become a party thereof.

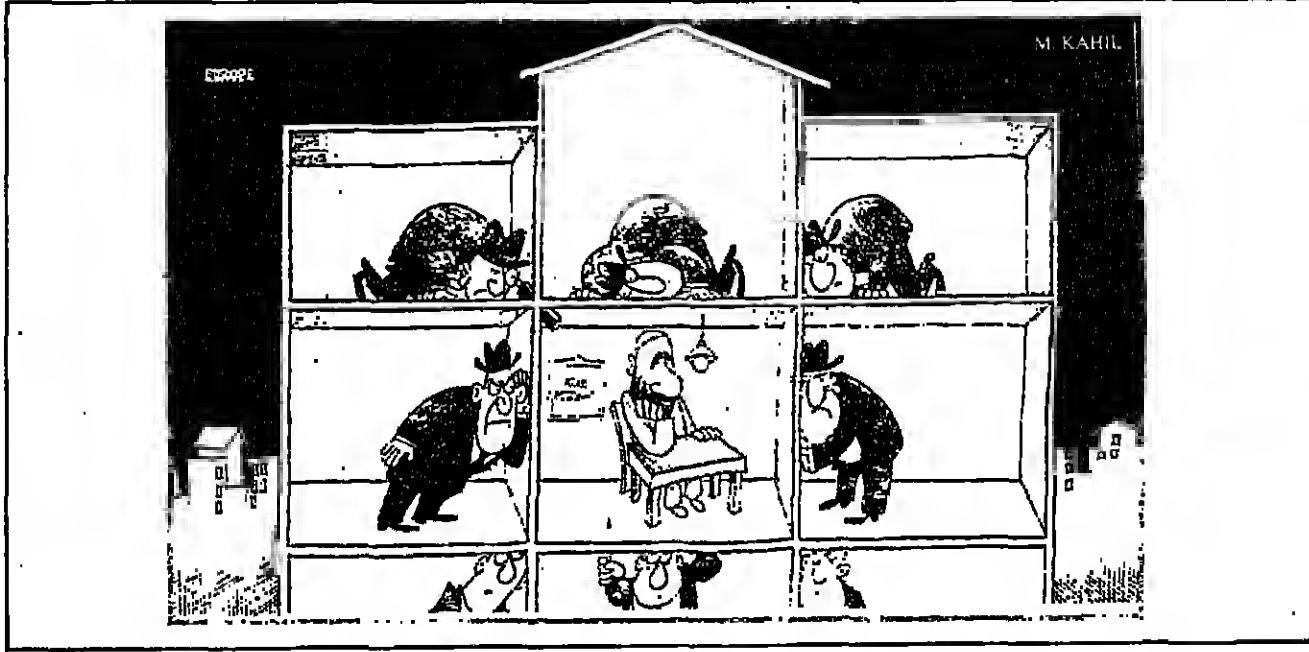
It goes without saying that many capitals, especially from the developing world where respect for human rights has yet to deepen and consolidate, would be reluctant to sign and ratify any such human rights treaty for fear of losing grip over their own domestic human rights scene. Nevertheless, the adoption of such a human rights convention would expose many countries' stands on human rights. It is one thing to sign and ratify "teethless" human rights instruments under which accountability is minimal, and it is quite another thing to make nationals of all states subject to an international jurisdiction that can bite, and bite painfully. It is enough to remember that all people who are suspected of human rights violations could be apprehended outside their homeland by any state that would be a party to the proposed treaty under the terms of this suggestion. Human rights watchers, international or regional or even national, could submit complaints to the international prosecutor under the proposed treaty and the arrest of any such suspect could be legally undertaken in any foreign state which is also a party to the treaty.

It would seem to me that such a drastic idea could be the right and effective prescription against the unchecked human rights violations, especially in their most serious form. We have all seen that in spite of numerous human rights instruments and the convening of periodic international meetings on human rights, the record of most countries on human rights has only turned from bad to worse. Even the Vienna Rights Conference in 1993 failed to advance the cause of human rights in any meaningful way. The international community must, therefore, begin to think of more effective ways to address human rights, particularly in areas where they count most, such as the right to life, prevention of torture and ill treatment of detainees and respect for due process of the law whenever a person is threatened with the deprivation of his liberties and properties.

The AI proposal would seem to run parallel to the already established international tribunal on war crimes and crimes against humanity. Violations of human rights during armed conflict are being targeted by the international community in a vigorous way in the aftermath of commissions of grave violations against international humanitarian law in such places as Burundi, Bosnia and parts of Africa, Asia and Latin America. Now is, therefore, the time to complement this international concern in humanitarian law with a similar action on the human rights front.

The AI proposal could be exactly what is needed to reflect this additional concern. But first, the promoters of the idea should not be over-ambitious. For starters, the international jurisdiction over human rights crimes should be confined to the most serious ones, such as torture. We cannot expect an international human rights court to look into all aspects and dimensions of human rights such as freedom of the press or fair trial or even the full respect for democracy. As important as these subjects are, they can still be distinguished from the pressing human rights standards. Besides, we already have in place several international bodies dealing with civil and political rights such as the Human Rights Committee with full jurisdiction to examine human rights abuses under the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR). We also have the Committee Against Torture and other bodies on the rights of children and women. Discrimination in all its forms, whether racial or sex oriented, is also amply dealt with in several international fora and expert groups.

What we should aim for with respect to this second category of human rights violations is to strengthen the bodies which monitor their application by increasing their mandate and enforcement mechanisms. The AI proposal, as I understand it, aims to target the most serious human rights violations and punish the guilty after due process of law. The list of human rights crimes that could come within the purview of the proposed court can be carefully articulated and selected. We certainly need to walk before we can run when it comes to prosecution of human rights crimes, and that is why it would be prudent to begin modestly and end up ambitiously after the international community obtains the necessary applied experience in dealing with human rights abuses across the board.



For East Asians, too, popular consent is the way

By José T. Almonte

MANILA — Authoritarian regimes these days are essentially fragile because they are ultimately based on force. Sooner or later they must give way to governments based on popular consent.

Historically, non-democratic governments appear in times of civil disorder and economic crisis. Since they rely without popular consent, their claim to legitimacy depends on their ability to restore law and order and develop the economy.

Once civil order is restored, authoritarian governments to developing countries are undermined by both their economic failure and their economic success. If they fail to develop the economy, people naturally will replace them with more efficient government — as Filipinos replaced Ferdinand Marcos in 1986.

But even if an authoritarian government succeeds in developing the economy, it creates its own downfall, because it then outlives its usefulness.

In South Korea, Taiwan and Chile, authoritarian governments, by successfully sponsoring capitalist growth, unwittingly created a private sector and a civil society of industrialists, traders, farmers, managers and professionals.

Once people became richer and more secure, they demanded political participation, a say in how they were governed and respect from their rulers. When this participation and respect were refused them, people eventually turned against General Park Chung Hee in South Korea, the Kuomintang old guard in Taiwan and General Augusto Pinochet in Chile.

Economic development cannot forever be a substitute for democracy. However, East Asia's au-

thoritarian governments have generally worked so well that the world has accepted them as the norm for such regimes, rather than the exceptions they in fact are.

Similar regimes, typically led by the military, were prevalent in Latin America, Asia, Africa and Eastern Europe before the wave of democratisation from 1974 to 1990, when democratic governments replaced authoritarian ones in some 30 countries over the 15-year period.

East Asia's authoritarian states are unique not because of the high growth rates they have achieved. Other authoritarian countries — the best example is Brazil from 1932 to 1979 — have grown as much and for as long. What is unique about East Asia's growth is the way it has involved large numbers of people to eradicate mass poverty, ease income inequality and generate pressures for political liberalisation.

By the World Bank's estimate, mass poverty declined from 35 per cent to only 10 per cent in East Asia overall between 1970 and 1990 — despite a 40 per cent increase in the region's population during those 20 years.

Authoritarian governments in the region have generally known when the command economy reached the limits of its usefulness.

In Taiwan, as in Thailand and Indonesia, they have given in with relative grace to popular pressures for political liberalisation — the ground for which they had themselves prepared by policies that emphasise income equality and social mobility, primary health care, technological education and bureaucratic merit.

The erosion of authoritarianism in East Asia is still in progress. Already the market economy has so homogenised the region's political systems that "anti-

Communist" ASEAN can effortlessly incorporate "Communist" Vietnam.

In fact, it is now more instructive to look at these political systems as graded members of a continuum rather than as distinct and contrasting categories. The characteristic transition is from "hard" to "soft" authoritarianism, which finally eases into the kind of democracy that now prevails in Taiwan and South Korea.

Eveo in China, politics will sooner or later catch up with economic reality. The new social groups being produced by China's economic modernisation will unavoidably generate basic political change. It will be abrupt or gradual, depending on how the Communist Party handles it.

In Burma, the martial law regime really has no long-term choice but to come to terms with the opposition leader Daw Aung San Suu Kyi if it is to open up the country's economy and join ASEAN.

Among East Asia's authoritarian regimes, only North Korea lacks the leisure for such a transition. There the liability of a sharp break between the old and new orders is real, perhaps by way of a military coup and eventual reconciliation with the democratic South.

Since democracy is the region's wave of the future, is East Asian democracy any different from the Western system?

Singapore's senior minister Lee Kuan Yew, for one, believes that although East Asians may now enjoy income equal to middle-class people in the West, they are still far from becoming middle-class in the politicised Western sense.

Technology makes it possible to raise developing-country incomes to rich-world levels very fast — within 30 to 40 years,

compared with the 100 years it took for a Western nation starting to modernise early in the 19th century. But, Mr. Lee argues, it takes as long as ever to train a whole society to modernity, to educate people "until they are capable of critical judgement, absorbing information from the written word and applying a critical eye to it."

Until ordinary people become capable of critical judgement, government is held to be justified in controlling the kind of information they receive from the outside world. This is why Mr. Lee's tight little island still censors Western magazines like Playboy and Peethouse and controls the installation of satellite dishes.

But in this effort to control the information that its people receive, Singapore is fighting a futile rearguard action against the new communications technology. Middle-class incomes make available middle-class technology. Today everybody is on real time — everybody is seeing the same thing on television at the same time. The same information generates the same economic needs, wants and hopes. It cuts across national boundaries and languages, and largely disregards ideologies as well.

All increasingly complex societies, East or West, are best ruled increasingly by conciliation and consensus if society is to become both free and orderly. And to the extent that countries accept these methods of political rule, to that extent will their political cultures converge.

The writer is presidential security adviser and director-general of the National Security Council of the Philippines. The above article is reprinted from the International Herald Tribune.

Illusion of 'greater Israel' dies with Taba deal

By Alan Elsner
Reuters

WASHINGTON — The signing of a new Middle East agreement, under which Israel will evacuate much of the West Bank, marks the death of the dream of a "greater Israel" which dominated Israeli politics for an entire generation.

In May 1977, on the night he was elected as Israel's first right-wing prime minister, the late Menachem Begin declared: "There are no occupied territories — they are liberated territories..." That night ushered in a 15-year period, during which successive Israeli governments did all they could to build what they called a "greater Israel". The aim was to ensure eternal Jewish sovereignty over the occupied West Bank.

Tens of thousands of settlers were encouraged by a mixture of officially sanctioned religious and nationalistic zeal and generous financial inducements, to move to heavily armed enclaves built in the heart of a hostile Arab population.

The settlements remain — for now — but the dream, or perhaps it was an illusion, of building a "greater Israel" is dead, finally buried by the agreement signed on Thursday by Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) chief Yasser Arafat.

Under the agreement, Israel hands over much of the West Bank to Palestinian rule and opens the way for the emergence of an elected Palestinian council. Mr. Rabin, in his speech after signing the agreement, spoke at what he called the deep biblical significance of the land Israel is yielding. He claimed that every olive tree, every field and every flower bore the deep imprint of Jewish history.

"But we are not alone here on this soil, in this land. And so we are sharing this good earth today with the Palestinian people — in order to choose life," Mr. Rabin declared.

Said Robert Satloff, director of the Washington Institute for Near East Policy: "This is an agreement to withdraw. It recognises that certain biblical cities are Palestinian cities. It brings to an end the idea of a 'greater Israel'."

The "greater Israel" idea had deep roots in the Israeli psyche. The West Bank contains many of the holiest and most significant sites in Jewish history, including the caves of the Machpelah in Hebron, which according to the book of Genesis was purchased by the Patriarch Abraham as a burial place for his wife, Sarah, for 400 shekels of silver. Now, an annex to the agreement

refers to "the Palestinian city of Hebron."

The "greater Israel" dream began to take on flesh in June 1967, when Israel captured the whole of the West Bank from Jordan in the six day war, setting off a wave of fervour among religious Israelis who believed that the military victory and the land had been divinely bequeathed to the Jewish people.

Within days of the war being over, the first settlers had appeared outside Hebron, where they took over a hotel and began what was to become the settlement of Kiryat Arba.

But as long as the non-religious Labour Party ruled Israel, the settlers pursued their ambitions without official sanction. Labour governments allowed settlements for strategic or geopolitical purposes but for the most part kept Jews out of major Palestinian population centres.

That changed on the night of Mr. Begin's victory. The fiercely nationalist Begin endorsed the "greater Israel" goal. His government settled Jews in the very heart of Hebron and near Nablus, the largest Palestinian city in the West Bank.

The settlements soon became a focus of violence. Palestinians launched their intifada in 1987 while some militant Jewish settlers formed their own underground guerrilla movement which blew up Palestinian mayors with booby-trap bombs.

Israel's nationalist tide began to turn in 1991 when the United States arranged an unprecedented Middle East peace conference in Madrid.

Even at the Madrid conference, Israel's then prime minister Yitzhak Shamir declared defiantly that his nation would never abandon the West Bank.

But the opening of peace talks changed something in Israel. The political pendulum was swinging away from the ideological right and back to the pragmatic centre.

In 1992, Labour's Rabin returned to power with a mandate to negotiate with Palestinians and other Arabs. The "greater Israel" adherents were consigned to the opposition.

Now, three years later, Mr. Rabin (is moving towards delivering) on his promise. Next year, he will face a new election and Israelis will have the chance to render their judgement.

But by that time, Israeli troops will have left Nablus and five other towns. Palestinians will be governing themselves and the right-wing Israeli dream of absorbing the West Bank will probably be gone for good.

LETTERS

Politics and professionals

To the Editor:

I FIND it quite incredible, and disturbing, that in a country as progressive as Jordan, many of the professional associations, like the Veterinary Association, can impose a political viewpoint on all their members and make this a requisite for practising their profession. These are all intelligent people, but surely they realise that the principle of imposing a lock-step mentality on their members is the same principle that leads ultimately to totalitarianism. The sooner this mentality and practice are jettisoned the better off we all will be.

When I take my sick dog to a veterinarian, my main concern, and that of my dog's, is not whether this person is for or against normalisation — that is incidental to the matter at hand. My concern is only one: Is he qualified to do what I am prepared to pay him to do, and that is to treat my dog? Period. In another context, we may sit down and discuss the pros and cons of normalisation but surely it has nothing to do with his qualifications and liberty to practise as a vet.

Bob Robertson,
Amman.

The Jordan Times welcomes letters and contributions from its readers on any subject they wish to tackle. Letters intended for publication, however, should contain the writer's full name and preferably address as well. Names can be withheld only upon request and under special circumstances. Letters are subject to editing. The newspaper is not responsible for the return of unused manuscripts.

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in June 1987, when
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the six day war, setting
the stage for the intifada.
The intifada was a
series of violent attacks
by the Palestinian
resistance movement
against the Israeli
military occupation
of the West Bank
and Gaza Strip.
The intifada was
led by the Palestine
Liberation Organisation
(PLO) and the
Fatah movement.
The intifada was
a response to the
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Features

WHERE NOW for the world's poor? The years since the collapse of Communism have seen the emergence of an apparent global consensus about the inescapable role of markets in economic life. But they have also brought a steadily developing sense of unease about how to respond to the losers in the increasingly ferocious competitive marketplace.

On Sept. 27 in Lambeth Palace a collection of the great and the good, led by Douglas Hurd and the Archbishop of Canterbury, gathered to debate the issue that is preoccupying the thinkers of the aid agency world: how to respond to growing economic globalisation. The occasion was the 50th anniversary of the founding of Christian Aid, whose work in the intervening period — from relief work for the starving in India in the Sixties to campaigning for the reform of unfair trading practices and the relief of Third World debt in more recent years — charts a shift in understanding of what keeps people poor. But the rapid integration of the world economy poses problems for the world's poor which are, according to senior aid analysts, qualitatively different.

Economic globalisation has come about through the interactions of high technology in communications, and other parts of industry, with the large-scale financial deregulation that was loosed in the Thatcher/Reagan era. National boundaries and habits are becoming increasingly irrelevant to business decisions as investment flows and production facilities move in search of the highest possible returns or market share. Marketing has become global — the whole world is sold the same McDonald's, Ford Mondeo, Coca-Cola or Michael Jackson album. Transnational companies grow ever larger, with their subsidiaries spanning the globe.

As a result the movement of money round the world is constantly speeding up — current foreign exchange dealings exceed \$1 trillion a day. And investors are moving their cash, known in financial jargon as foreign direct investment (FDI), around the unregulated world market in such quantities that FDI has overtaken trade as the engine of world growth. Jobs follow the cash, which is invested wherever labour is cheapest. Thus one of France's largest electronics groups employs three times as many people in Asia as it does at home. And Swissair has moved its accountancy department to Delhi.

Good news for the poor? Up to a point. For when living standards begin to rise — and local wages with them — the jobs move elsewhere. Japanese investment is already shifting from South Korea and Taiwan to Malaysia and Thailand, which have one-tenth of the wage costs. The commercial logic is hard to defy. Only last week the U.K. firm Morgan Crucible, one of the world's largest suppliers of industrial carbons and ceramics, announced that it was moving production from Germany and Japan to Eastern Europe and China. Wages were \$31 an hour in Japan and \$26 in Germany; in Eastern Europe, rates were \$1.50 an hour; at its new Shanghai plant \$1 a day.

In such a process of heightened competition between countries, the strong do well and those left behind find it ever harder to catch up. The need to remain competitive in an open global economy will lead to a downward pressure on standards (of living, working and products) and national and local cultures will come under attack.

The resultant world system works perfectly well without bothering about Africa, where rates of malnutrition, child mortality and illiteracy — in decline until a few years ago — have begun to rise again. According to Kevin Watkins, senior policy adviser at Oxfam, less than 2 per cent of all FDI goes to Africa, so 15 per cent of the world's population is consigned to oblivion.

The idea that women in Shanghai — and their

Population

World population in 1992: 5.5 billion

World population in 2050: 9.5 billion

World population in 2100: 12 billion

World population in 2150: 15 billion

World population in 2200: 18 billion

World population in 2250: 21 billion

World population in 2300: 24 billion

World population in 2350: 27 billion

World population in 2400: 30 billion

World population in 2450: 33 billion

World population in 2500: 36 billion

World population in 2550: 39 billion

World population in 2600: 42 billion

World population in 2650: 45 billion

World population in 2700: 48 billion

World population in 2750: 51 billion

World population in 2800: 54 billion

World population in 2850: 57 billion

World population in 2900: 60 billion

World population in 2950: 63 billion

World population in 3000: 66 billion

Telephone lines

World population in 1992: 5.5 billion

World population in 2050: 9.5 billion

World population in 2100: 12 billion

World population in 2150: 15 billion

World population in 2200: 18 billion

World population in 2250: 21 billion

World population in 2300: 24 billion

World population in 2350: 27 billion

World population in 2400: 30 billion

World population in 2450: 33 billion

World population in 2500: 36 billion

World population in 2550: 39 billion

World population in 2600: 42 billion

World population in 2650: 45 billion

World population in 2700: 48 billion

World population in 2750: 51 billion

World population in 2800: 54 billion

World population in 2850: 57 billion

World population in 2900: 60 billion

World population in 2950: 63 billion

World population in 3000: 66 billion

Death rates

World population in 1992: 5.5 billion

World population in 2050: 9.5 billion

World population in 2100: 12 billion

World population in 2150: 15 billion

World population in 2200: 18 billion

World population in 2250: 21 billion

World population in 2300: 24 billion

World population in 2350: 27 billion

World population in 2400: 30 billion

World population in 2450: 33 billion

World population in 2500: 36 billion

World population in 2550: 39 billion

World population in 2600: 42 billion

World population in 2650: 45 billion

World population in 2700: 48 billion

World population in 2750: 51 billion

World population in 2800: 54 billion

World population in 2850: 57 billion

World population in 2900: 60 billion

World population in 2950: 63 billion

World population in 3000: 66 billion

Birth rates

World population in 1992: 5.5 billion

World population in 2050: 9.5 billion

World population in 2100: 12 billion

World population in 2150: 15 billion

World population in 2200: 18 billion

World population in 2250: 21 billion

World population in 2300: 24 billion

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World population in 2600: 42 billion

World population in 2650: 45 billion

World population in 2700: 48 billion

World population in 2750: 51 billion

World population in 2800: 54 billion

World population in 2850: 57 billion

World population in 2900: 60 billion

World population in 2950: 63 billion

World population in 3000: 66 billion

Infant mortality

World population in 1992: 5.5 billion

World population in 2050: 9.5 billion

World population in 2100: 12 billion

World population in 2150: 15 billion

World population in 2200: 18 billion

World population in 2250: 21 billion

World population in 2300: 24 billion

World population in 2350: 27 billion

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World population in 2750: 51 billion

World population in 2800: 54 billion

World population in 2850: 57 billion

World population in 2900: 60 billion

World population in 2950: 63 billion

World population in 3000: 66 billion

Poverty

World population in 1992: 5.5 billion

World population in 2050: 9.5 billion

World population in 2100: 12 billion

World population in 2150: 15 billion

World population in 2200: 18 billion

World population in 2250: 21 billion

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How to halt the global money-go-round?

As big capital chases profit and low wages around the world, aid agencies are left with a dilemma: fund-raise, trade or campaign? Paul Valley reports

equivalents in the carpet sweatshops of Bangladesh — are working for about 65 pence a day what would they be doing? The alternatives would be subsistence farming, domestic service or prostitution. Cable sees 'labour-intensive, export-oriented growth as the only hope for the poor world. Their conditions will improve with overall economic growth. When the tide comes in, all boats rise.'

To Kevin Watkins at Oxfam that sounds suspiciously like the old discredited 'trickle-down' theory in new clothes. There has

been more than a decade of economic growth in the U.S. and U.K. and yet at the same time significant increases in poverty. All boats rise, except those which are anchored to the river bed. Economic growth is a necessary condition for poverty reduction but it is not sufficient, unless accompanied by economic redistribution — measures that empower poor people.

Watkins sees globalisation as a euphemism for a race to maximise profit by lowering environmental standards and workers' pay and conditions.

If Vincent Cable dismisses this kind of analysis as emotional and unhelpful and likely to feed the agenda of the new protectionists, Ian Linden, general secretary of the Catholic Institute for International Relations, takes a strictly pragmatic view. He concentrates on *realpolitik*, proposing that the agencies lobby governments for a half-

way house in which minimum standards might be agreed within regional trading blocs. Jobs would still go from Europe to Asia, but not so easily from Korea to the Philippines. The big question here is whether mere lobbying can bring the market under such social and community control. If it could not, Linden argues, we would still have children up chimneys.

But others in the aid agencies feel that the only realistic option is to work with the grain of the new economics. The poor nations can't opt out of globalisation, argues George Gelber, head of policy at the Catholic agency Cafod. 'They've got to be skilled up. Some will criticise us for saying that, but there are no alternative models in the wings.'

That is very much the approach of fair-trade organisations such as Oxfam Trading, Equal Exchange, Twin Trading and Traid-

Jerusalem is a constituency — Arafat

(Continued from page 1)

The transfer of power in cities and villages will give the Palestinians control over slightly less than a third of the West Bank.

The Israel-PLO agreement faces stiff opposition from Jewish settlers in the West Bank. About 200 settlers burned tires and blocked traffic Sunday morning on the bypass road around Jericho and at an army checkpoint before the King Hussein Bridge to Jordan. Eighteen protesters were detained.

The settlers said they were protesting Israel's plans to remove army roadblocks and expand the area of Palestinian self-rule around Jericho.

'They lied to us,' David Elhiani, head of the Jordan Valley settlers' council, told Israel Radio. 'The Jordan Valley is no longer the security strip of the nation. They are ceding the Jordan Valley. We will not allow Palestinian police into the Jordan Valley. We will fight with everything we have.'

Several hundred travellers were delayed and traffic

across the bridge stopped for most of the morning until Israeli police dragged settlers away from the main gate leading to the bridge just outside Jericho.

A Reuters photographer saw police detain between 10 and 12 demonstrators. Israeli army radio said most were released later.

The settlers began the protest by blocking a main road to Jerusalem.

They then marched towards the bridge, vowing to remain at an entrance road all day.

Palestinian police Major Fawzi Odeh, in charge of West Bank crossing points for the Palestinian self-rule authority, called the protest a violation of Palestinian rights of passage.

'They cause a lot of problems for our Palestinian citizens, especially the ones who are travelling to Jordan,' he told Reuters.

An Arab taxi driver waiting near the bridge said: 'The demonstrators are harming the movement from Jordan. Why are they letting them do that?'

The supreme court meanwhile ordered Israeli authorities to justify a decision to not prosecute two interrogators who shook a Palestinian detainee to death, Israel Radio said.

Abdul Samad Harizat, 29, died during Shin Bet interrogation in April, and a pathologist who attended his autopsy said he was tortured to death. Israeli media reported his head was banged against a wall and he was left unconscious in an isolation cell.

After an appeal by a lobby called the Committee Against Torture, the supreme court ordered the justice ministry and Shin Bet to explain within 45 days why the interrogators and their commanders should not be prosecuted in a criminal court for Harizat's death.

The justice ministry had been satisfied by their sentence in an internal Shin Bet disciplinary court, Israel Radio said.

The Shin Bet had hoped Harizat would lead them to members of the militant group Hamas.

Iran cautions Israel against attacking nuclear facilities

(Continued from page 1)

armed forces in general are now almost self-sufficient in weapons.

'Our foreign purchases are very limited. They are in no way comparable with those of our neighbours,' he told the newspaper, without elaboration.

Iranian President Ali Akbar Hashemi Rafsanjani meanwhile criticised U.S. attempts to isolate Iran economically as he opened an international trade fair here on Sunday that attracted companies from 53 countries.

'The world's welcome of the fair this year is a clear response to the American government, which thinks it can deploy its political and financial power to isolate a country,' Mr. Rafsanjani said in his opening speech.

Some 800 foreign companies and 2,200 Iranian firms are participating in the 21st International Commercial Fair in Tehran, which lasts until Oct. 9.

South Africa, Mexico and Iraq are taking part for the first time and Germany, Iran's top trade partner, is the biggest foreign participant.

U.S. companies, who made a strong showing in the past two years, are absent this year because of a unilateral embargo imposed by their government on Iran in June.

The United States, accusing Iran of supporting international terrorism and seeking to develop nuclear weapons, has urged other countries to join it to isolate Iran, but to no avail.

Iranian leaders have rebuffed U.S. efforts and have approached other international firms to replace business with U.S. companies, who were Iran's biggest trading partners in 1993 and 1994.

Iraq's presence at the Iran fair was unexpected as the two countries are yet to recover from their 1980-1988 war and Baghdad is still subjected to an international trade embargo imposed after Iraq invaded Kuwait in August 1990.

Abdul Rahman and all others found guilty of plotting bombing

(Continued from page 1)

a peacekeeping force from the Middle East.

He said Sheikh Abdul Rahman called America 'the number one enemy of Islam.'

Members of the Jihad organisation allegedly sought to bring a global holy war to the United States by killing Kahane and bombing the trade centre. They then allegedly sought to assassinate Egyptian President Hosni Mubarak, bomb five sites in a single day and kidnap or kill other dignitaries. They even discussed kidnapping former U.S. President Richard Nixon and former Secretary of State Henry Kissinger.

'Terrorism is real. It is here. It is in this courtroom,' Mr. Fitzgerald told the jury.

In 1991, Mr. Nosair was acquitted in state court in the Kahane killing but was jailed

on related weapons charges.

In the 1980s, the sheikh had been acquitted twice in his homeland of commanding others to kill Egyptian President Anwar Sadat, who was assassinated in 1981. He was convicted in absentia in 1994 for a role in a 1989 anti-government riot and was sentenced to seven years hard labour.

Defence lawyers argued the Federal Bureau of Investigations (FBI) created the United Nations plot to save face after ignoring warnings prior to the trade centre attack from informant Emad Salem that a bombing would take place.

'Their arrogance and audacity blew up in their face,' defence lawyer John Jacobs said.

The stipup, the lawyers argued, gave Mr. Salem leverage to demand \$1 million to snare the defendants and manipulate FBI agents despite his long history of telling lies, including boasting that he knew Saddam Hussein and lying to a state jury. He is now in the federal witness relocation programme.

They noted that Mr. Salem, who testified for a month, admitted providing information to the Egyptian government, as did Abdo Mohammad Haggag, a defendant turned government witness who testified he told the Egyptian about the Mubarak plot and where a trade centre bomber was hiding in Egypt.

The defence case was aided by dozens of audiotapes Mr. Salem made secretly of his talks with his FBI handlers because he feared the agency would turn against him.

Four defendants testified, but not the sheikh.

The verdict came in the second of three trials stemming from the trade centre bombing, which killed six people, caused \$500 million worth of damage and reduced the feeling of security among Americans.

Four men were convicted last year in the trade centre bombing and were sentenced to 240 years in prison.

In a third trial, expected next year, the scope will be widened further as the government claims that the trade centre bombing was part of a worldwide terrorism campaign that continued into 1995 with plans to bomb airplanes from the sky.

That trial will feature the case against Ramzi Yousef, the alleged mastermind of the trade centre bombing. He was arrested in Pakistan this year after two years on the run.

Cars torched in Lyon

(Continued from page 12)

dom, potentially fuelling further violence both in France and among militants in Algeria.

'Is this not the stuff of which martyrs are made... on both sides of the Mediterranean in a community torn by doubt, desperation and fantasy?' said Hervé Bourges, head of France's broadcasting watchdog authority, the CSA.

Journal du Dimanche issued a similar warning in a front-page editorial, asking whether it was right for the French media 'to show again and again the body of Khaled Kelkal knowing that the image will be seen over and over from Vaulx-en-Velin to the suburbs of Algiers and Oran, and that it will be cynically exploited by the fundamentalists.'

Kelkal's death was clearly a disappointment for police, who had been told to take him alive if at all possible.

But the manhunt did provide one crucial lead for police: Koussa, an accomplice of Kelkal, who was wounded in a shootout with police Sunday at his hospital bed.

Koussa and two others who were apparently helping Kelkal are to be charged with terrorist-related offences, judicial officials said.

Koussa, Abdul Kader Maameri and Abdul Kader Bouhadjar are to be indicted on charges of associating with criminals linked to a terrorist enterprise, they said.

Libya to expel 5,000

(Continued from page 1)

Witnesses at Salloum said at one stage a group of people, in front of Libyan television cameras, started chanting slogans condemning the PLO-Israeli accord.

'Down with the agreement, no to capitulation,' and 'We shall free our land with weapons,' they chanted.

Libyan authorities moved dozens of tents from the Libyan side of the border into no man's land to shelter the Palestinians. Around 170 tents, each big enough for 10 people, now stand in the narrow desert strip between the borders, many of them bearing Palestinian flags.

Palestinians stuck at Salloum earlier this month said they were reduced to begging

for food from travellers. The UNHCR's Mountzi said children were struck down with diarrhoea and people were scared to sleep at night because of the scorpions.

About 300 deportees were still at the border post of Mised on the Libyan side waiting to cross into the international zone after arriving in 'six buses from Tobruk late Saturday, Egyptian officials added.

Almost all the expelled Palestinians entered the zone between the borders without papers and many had no personal belongings, and that another 1,500 were expected in the next four or five days, Egyptian officials said.

Dozens of other expelled Palestinians holding valid documents, meanwhile, crossed the border into Egypt on Saturday.

Ministry promises fair ruling

(Continued from page 12)

Supply wants,' four companies said in an advertisement in the Al Dustour Arabic daily this week.

But the producers charged that the study upon which the ministry would make its decision was based on old data, especially the prices of raw material.

Consumer Protection Society President Mohammad Obeidat supported the ministry's stand against floating the prices.

The Al Aswaq daily quoted Dr. Obeidat as saying that the rise in the cost of raw material was minimal and did not justify floating the prices.

He said that Jordan's experience in floating price had failed because the market

was limited. Indicating that floating the price of second-grade tissue paper would lead to an increase in its price, he said this would harm citizens whose purchasing power was eroding as a result of continuing price hikes.

Though Dr. Azzam expressed hope that producers would cooperate with the ministry in the interest of the country, he was firm in stating that the ministry had 'ample means to protect the interest of the country.'

Dr. Azzam added that the producers were free to accept or refuse its decision. But 'if they refuse it,' he said, 'I will recommend to the Prime Ministry to fix the prices of first-grade tissue paper and end its floatation and also to open the doors for imports.'

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India sets eyes on \$500m trade with Jordan in 3 years

By Cathy King
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — India seeks to raise to \$500 million its annual trade with Jordan by 1998, a high-ranking Indian trade and industry official said Sunday.

Binay Kumar, president of the Federation of the Indian Chambers of Commerce and Industry (FICCI), said the Indian business community was becoming aware of Jordan's "new environment" and its emergence as a regional "trading port."

According to official figures, trade between the two countries in 1994 was valued at about \$200 million, with Indian importing goods worth \$150 million from Jordan.

Mr. Kumar, who led an FICCI delegation comprised of three government officials and 10 businessmen, held talks here on Saturday and Sunday. On Saturday they signed two agreements, the first with the Amman Chamber of Industry (ACI) and the second with the Amman Chamber of Commerce (ACC). Both agreements involved enhanced cooperation between the Jordanian bodies and FICCI.

Saturday's agreement with the ACI established a joint business council that will provide a platform for the formal exchange of business information. Exchange of visits

are to be arranged on an annual basis, Mr. Kumar said.

The agreement with the ACC made provisions for coordination, a Jordanian product exhibition in India and exchange of visits of business persons, he added.

The Indian economy has witnessed liberalisation over the last three years, allowing the importation of non-traditional products.

Traditionally, India is a large importer of the Kingdom's phosphate and potash products, said Mr. Kumar, adding that India would now look towards importing manufactured products and industrial cooperation.

"Your strategic location in the region and your trade agreements with the United States, Europe and others are very important to us," he stated.

Jordan and India, he maintained, will be able to create a mutually beneficial partnership because "India has a quota problem (in textiles). We have a market and we have customers, but we have a quota problem."

He was referring to ceilings imposed by the government of Europe and the U.S. on textile imports.

Through Jordan's preferential treatment agreement with Europe and the U.S., he said, the Kingdom and India would be able to

forge a "good partnership."

The two countries will be able to act as gateways for each other: India will be a gateway for Jordan's market in Asia and South Asia while Jordan will be India's to the Middle East region and Europe, Mr. Kumar said.

Jordan's and the region's traditional trade links with India are founded upon India's exportation of tea, coffee and leather, he said.

Prior to the three-day visit to Amman, the delegation visited Saudi Arabia and Kuwait.

"The delegation's visit is an advanced team in preparation for the MENA (Middle East and North Africa) economic summit," he said. Awareness is low (in the region) and the (Indian) government is looking for alliances," said Mr. Kumar, who is also the chairman of Banaras House Limited, an export-import company with offices throughout India and several European and North American cities.

Mr. Kumar expected that India to be represented at the MENA summit by 50 to 60 people representing India's public and private sectors, but he hoped for the participation of more businesspersons.

Mr. Kumar rejected suggestions that joint Jordanian-Indian projects would be limited by financial restrictions.

There is plenty of surplus money that people want to give to credible projects with good returns," he said.

In light of a common problem of unemployment, Mr. Kumar saw a solution in the establishment of small and medium scale business.

"Thirty per cent of the (Indian) economy is directly or indirectly based on small- and medium-scale production," he said, emphasising that enterprises of this kind offer more employment opportunities.

Joint projects now up for consideration as a result of the delegation's visit to the Kingdom, Mr. Kumar said, include a hotel and joint projects in the leather and ready-made garment industries.

Following meetings with the directors-general of the Jordan Phosphate Mines Company and the Arab Potash Company, Mr. Kumar said the talks underlined the need for increased exports of derivatives of phosphates and potash in exchange for an increase of Indian imports to the Kingdom.

"We are looking for a better balance of trade," Mr. Kumar asserted, but added that the results of the discussions would have to be reviewed.

The FICCI delegation returns home today.

Iraq fears may hit Kuwait economy — Al Shall

KUWAIT (R) — Fresh Kuwaiti government expressions of concern about former occupier Iraq are ill-founded and could hamper the Gulf country's economic reforms, a private economic consultancy said Saturday.

Al Shall Economic Consultants said recent government statements accusing Iraq of planning a repeat of its 1990 invasion had hit prices on the Kuwait stock exchange in the trading week ending Wednesday.

"It is necessary to be cautious when dealing with such statements for two main reasons: First, they are not accurate, and second, their effect is dangerous and might restrict or delay attempts at reform and may increase the cost of reform," Al Shall said in a weekly economic commentary.

Al Shall is run by Jassem Al Saadoun, an adviser on economics to the opposition-dominated parliament.

The exchange's price index fell one per cent to 1,278, or 13 points below the previous week's close in the week ending Wednesday, partly on dealers' adverse reaction to statements about Iraq.

The value of shares traded declined 47.5 per cent.

Prime Minister Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah was quoted twice during the week as saying the suspected Iraq might soon try to invade to avenge its 1991 Gulf war defeat and as calling for heightened national unity.

Government attempts to revive investment and stock exchange activity are central to reforms aimed at stimulating the moribund private sector and reducing the dominant economic role of the state.

Economists add that a government plan to settle billions of dollars of longstanding private sector debt hinges in part on stable stock market prices.

Amman stocks rise on strength of banks demand

AMMAN (R) — Jordan's exchange was steady at start of weekly trade on Saturday with some speculative buying along with a large bloc sale on Arab Bank, dealers said.

The index of the Amman Financial Market rose to 159.76 points, up a slight 0.06 per cent from 159.67 on Wednesday.

The value of shares traded rose to JD 4,709,599 from JD 1,152,604 on Wednesday. Trading was moderate, with 658 contracts executed for 947,693 shares.

The market kept the momentum of a buying spree on select speculative stock triggered mostly by local traders and some outside buying on select blue chip that helped underpin the exchange since last week.

Traders said although

there was no change in the market, optimism of a rebound is underpinning current price levels.

"There is room for an improvement in prices, with buying and speculation of some stock that allows for optimism, although one cannot rely on it 100 per cent," one broker said.

In banks, the leading sector, Arab Bank — a major component in the official 60-share index — rose JD 500 to JD 243,000 on large bloc transfer valued at JD 3,041,805 — more than two thirds of daily volume. Jordan-Gulf Bank continued to be focus of heavy investor demand with a large turnover of JD 274,926 and 60 fils rise to JD 1.210.

In industrials, Union Chemical and Vegetable Oil In-

dustries rose 60 fils to JD 2,080. Arab Paper Converting and Trading rose 10 fils to JD 1,430. Livestock and poultry rose 30 fils to 690 fils Jordan Cement was unchanged at JD 3,620.

In services, Jordan Electric Power shed 10 fils to JD 1,660 and newly listed Union Land Development Corporation rose 90 fils to JD 1,090.

Banks dominated on turnover of JD 3,475,457 and an index rise of 0.20 per cent. Industrials had a JD 1,041,708 turnover and an index drop of 0.07 per cent. Services had a JD 188,227 turnover and an index drop of 0.56 per cent.

A total of 390,220 shares worth JD 398,522 changed hands in lacklustre activity in the new issues primary market.

Arab stock markets end week higher

DUBAI (R) — Share prices on most Arab stock markets edged higher last week, with the United Arab Emirates' index soaring to a year high on solid gains by leading shares.

But trade on the informal UAE bourse remained subdued as investors held back from selling in anticipation of further price rises. The National Bank of Abu Dhabi 22-share index moved up 23.6 points to 1,968.81. At end 1994 it was at 1,922 points.

Share prices in Jordan rose on optimism about foreign investor buying as a result of the Amman regional economic conference due to be held at the end of October.

The Amman Financial Market index rose 2.7 per cent, up 4.2 points to 159.76 from a previous 155.5 points.

Egyptian stocks rose in very heavy trade as local and

foreign institutions weighed in with millions of pounds.

Brokers said buying by two mutual funds, the second set up by each of Banque Misr and National Bank of Egypt, was one of the biggest factors behind the long-awaited revival.

In Saudi Arabia, speculative buying sent trading in the market sharply higher, but the share index edged lower losing 0.8 per cent to 139.89 points from the previous 141.04.

Economist Anzar Ahmed, vice-president of the Consulting Centre for Finance and Investment in Riyadh, said the market was boosted in the past few months mainly by an increase in the share prices of Riyadh Bank and the Saudi Basic Industries Corp SBIC (SABIC).

Kuwaiti stocks slipped and volume fell amid caution in-

spired by government expressions of concern about former occupier Iraq. The price index fell one per cent and the value of traded shares declined 47.5 per cent.

In Morocco, the Casablanca Bourse was lower although some stocks rose significantly as a result of interest generated by publication of a rush of half-yearly results. The index closed at 329.09 points from a previous 330.83.

In Oman and Qatar, share prices ended higher in moderate trade. Bahrain's official share index lost 1.79 points. Soliders shares on the Beirut secondary market were stable.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR MONDAY, OCTOBER 2, 1995

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Astrological Foundation

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) Be sure to keep promises made in business and you get fine results. It is important you agree with ideas of your mate also.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Be alert to exactly what is that others are saying today or you could misinterpret their true meaning and get into trouble which could be costly to you.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Make sure that you get duties handled today and don't run off on any tangents. Avoid taking risks while out driving on the highway.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) You should steer clear of that friend who is in a bad humour today otherwise you soon lose your joie de vivre. Think constructively about some new project.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) You may feel that you are too tied down with family obligations today, but handle them well just the same and all cases up.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Use wisdom in handling transportation matters today. Don't take up any moot points in correspondence directed towards important individuals.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) You feel you do not have enough financial means to keep out of the red today, but by careful planning and analysis, you do all right.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) You feel stymied in gaining your personal wishes today, so take it easy and await the tomorrow. Don't fuss and fume about a situation you have no control over.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) You feel depressed and should seek the company of cheerful individuals today who can help brighten your spirits to get your activities completed.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 20) A new friend desires something you own and could give you a rough time today, but don't give in to undo pressure. Be with cheerful persons you know.

AQUARIUS: (January 21 to February 19) Be sure to hold your temper in the outside world today otherwise you could get into serious trouble. Follow all rules and instructions provided to you.

PISCES: (February 20 to March 20) You want badly to get into new projects and interests today, but first you have to keep any promises which you have made towards others.

Birthstone of October: Opal — Tourmaline

EU pushes ahead with monetary plan

VALENCIA, Spain (AP) — European Union finance chiefs sought Saturday to quell doubts about their future common currency by pushing ahead with preparations to replace marks, francs, guilders and the rest.

They even appeared to make progress on picking a name for the new money, with the "Euro" emerging as frontrunner.

"European monetary union is definitely on track... and will go ahead according to the criteria and the timetable," EU Commission President Jacques Santer said at a news conference.

"This meeting has removed much of the ambiguity," the EU chief executive said after day-long talks among finance ministers and central bank governors from the union nations.

The drive to achieve monetary union has been overshadowed in recent weeks by uncertainty over

whether key nations, including France and Italy, will be able to meet strict financial conditions for joining the single currency club by 1999.

Ministers here pledged to redouble their efforts to reach the targets of low inflation and interest rates, slim budget deficits, modest debt and stable exchange rates.

"We have no intention of letting our public finances backslide," said French Finance Minister Jean Arthuis.

Despite the upbeat tone, the meeting in a luxury hotel beside the Mediterranean Sea failed to convince everyone the currency union was out of danger.

Governments must prove they are prepared to push through unpopular spending cuts or tax increases need to bring their deficits down to the 3 per cent of gross national product demanded by the currency union criteria.

Germany, the EU's economic powerhouse, has insisted

the criteria cannot be weakened to allow stragglers to join. The Germans, along with tiny Luxembourg, are the only EU members who currently meet the criteria.

They are concerned a relaxation of the conditions would lead to economic instability.

German Finance Minister Theo Waigel even wants new conditions introduced to ensure nations don't start to run up deficits again after they join the currency union. Mr. Waigel told reporters there was broad support for his suggestion.

He also got backing for his ideas on what to call the future currency, with a number of ministers backing the "Euro."

France, however, was unenthusiastic, preferring the "ECU," which is currently used for EU accounting and stands for European currency unit.

A decision on the name is

expected December at a summit of EU leaders in the Spanish capital of Madrid.

The ministers did agree on a number of technical steps towards the currency switch. They said a decision on who would join the first group of nations to adopt the single currency would be made at the end of 1997, based on that year's economic data.

EU citizens should be able start using the new currency for non-cash transactions immediately after by the Jan. 1, 1999, deadline.

THE Daily Crossword by Alvin L. Becker

ACROSS

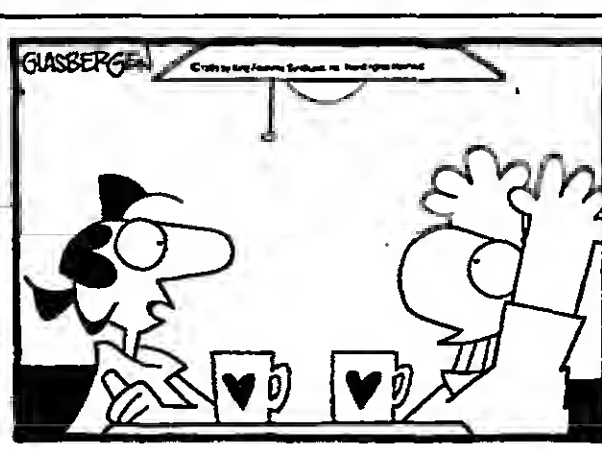
- At a distance
- Rum cakes
- Procedure
- Plant fluids
- Mr. Yale
- Top-notch
- Savor faire
- Succeed
- Extinct bird
- "— is a joy forever" (Keats)
- Feudal land holding
- Delray Beach state abbr.
- Call to memory
- Ballet move
- Uraeus
- Nobelists Wiesel
- Warn
- Auditor e.g.
- Similar people
- Netherlands commune
- Occasion
- Clue
- Enlants "Terribles" (Cocteau)
- Gingrich
- Experts
- Beetle
- Revise copy
- "— is worth two"
- Tel —
- Slacken
- Stravinsky
- Solitary
- Spud
- CA wine valley
- Concludes
- Rough-edged
- Flounshed

DOWN

- Movie dog
- Accomplishment
- Principal
- Confirmed
- Suppliated
- Unconcerned
- Whack
- Husband of Jezebel
- Certain
- Il city
- Pillage
- A Rooney
- Modern pret.
- Writer Anais —
- Prince Valiant's beloved
- Oppose authority
- Omit a syllable
- Bogs down
- Factory
- Went
- on one's shoulder
- Exhausted
- Divides
- "Good Men"
- Madrid man
- Certain collector's coin
- Dysart movie
- Slick
- Gambling cube
- Plummet
- Diminutive suffixes
- Eng. river
- Tie
- Construction piece
- Alliance acronym
- Culture medium
- Slangy refusal
- Sketch
- Tavern drink

Yesterday's puzzle solved:

CARAT ACME EITALL
ARUBA SLUM RIARE
GAMUT HUMBLEPTE
EBBIS PEBBLEEAR
LEGER LISS
SWE'ENHEM AJAR
COS DINTAP FIZIE
AVES YULES EMUS
PEAIT MAGUS BRO
ANTE CBIS MIISELD
PHIL DANITE
APE ANEMIC AISIS
BUMBLEBEE SPARK
ERIE MUTT ALLEY
TARTY AGES GEESSE



Peanuts



Andy Cap



Mutt'n'Jeff



**Business
Daily
Beat**
A review
of economic news
from the Arabic press

Dabbas: '96 state budget to exceed JD 1,600 million

Assem Dabbas, Chairman of the Lower House of Parliament Finance Committee, said the Kingdom's 1996 general budget would exceed JD 1,600 million and would take into consideration recent developments, mainly those related to the Middle East peace process, aiming to enable the government to tackle unemployment through establishing development projects. Dr. Dabbas described the next year's fiscal budget as "the peace budget" since it follows the signing of the Jordanian-Israeli peace treaty and the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which will start in Amman Oct. 29. Noting that Jordan received many pledges for support from international parties concerned with the cause of peace in the Middle East, Dr. Dabbas said all regional and international parties are keen to enable Jordan to attract foreign investment and capital. The deputy stressed the need to have the upcoming general budget balanced in terms of revenue and expenditure, to reduce the budget deficit, noting that it will be complementary to this year's general budget. Dr. Dabbas said Jordan will be a main

centre of distributing Qatari natural gas and will try to launch several major projects aiming to offer job opportunities to the unemployed. (Al Dustour)

* The Amman Chamber of Industry will present JD 25,000 in financial support for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit which will open in Amman at the end of the month, chamber President Khalid Abu Hassan announced. Mr. Abu Hassan said the chamber will also prepare an updated guidebook on the Jordanian economy, the industrial sector and the names of Jordanian companies and their products. (Al Ra'i)

* The Jordanian Businessmen Council is taking part in a meeting of private sector representatives of member states of the Organisation of Islamic Conference (OIC) to be organised by the Islamic Chamber of Commerce and Industry in cooperation with the Egyptian Chambers of Commerce Federation in Cairo in the period Sept. 30-Oct. 3. The council is represented at the meeting by board member Farouq Al Azzeh. (Al Dustour)

Note from editor:
Due to a translation error, the second item that appeared in this column yesterday mistakenly listed the "Arab Bank" as one of the founders of the Universal Hotel for Tourism PLC instead of "Arab Land Bank."

United Arab Emirates to buy 2 satellites

ABU DHABI (AFP) — The United Arab Emirates (UAE) is planning to buy two satellites for commercial uses, becoming the first Arab state to possess its own satellite facility, officials said on Sunday.

The government-controlled Etisalat, the sole telecommunications institution in the UAE, discussed the project at a board meeting on Sunday, according to its director general, Sultan Al Owais.

The board discussed a feasibility study on the two satellite projects and decided to go ahead with the purchase of both satellites, he told reporters.

He said the first satellite, to be called Emiratsat, would be used in telephone and television transmission and the second one, Thurayya, would be deployed for mobile communications.

Mr. Owais gave no details of the project but Etisalat said earlier it planned to buy one satellite at a cost of 100 million dirhams (\$27.2 million). It was not clear if bids for the two satellites have been invited.

The UAE, a key Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) oil producer, is already a main subscriber to two Arab satellites, currently in orbit. The Arab Satellites Organisation

(ARABSAT), which owns the two, plans to launch a third one to face growing demand.

Etisalat officials said the satellite project was prompted by a large expansion in telecommunication networks in the emirates, with the installation of an average 120,000 lines every year.

The UAE currently has 650,000 telephones, 120,000 mobile phones and 200,000 pagers, in addition to more than 1,100 subscribers to the sophisticated Internet system, introduced this year.

Etisalat, with a capital of 1.5 billion dirhams (\$408 million), also plans to buy a second ship for the repair and maintenance of marine cables

Saudi Arabia again employing Yemenis

DUBAI (R) — Saudi Arabia has opened its doors to the employment of Yemenis, five years after it sent home hundreds of thousands of Yemenis over their country's sympathy with Iraq during the Gulf war, Arab diplomats said on Sunday.

They said employment departments at the Labour Ministry have over the past month started accepting requests for the hiring of Yemenis, but on condition they have a Saudi sponsor. Before the 1990 Gulf crisis Yemenis did not need a sponsor in the kingdom.

"There is no idea now how

many have returned, but it is expected that hundreds of thousands of Yemenis will eventually come to work in the kingdom," one diplomat said.

Saudi Arabia, like its Gulf Arab allies, was angered in 1990 when Yemen, then a member of the United Nations Security Council, voted against a U.N. resolution sanctioning the 1991 Gulf war to end Iraq's occupation of Kuwait.

It cut vital financial and

political aid to Sanaa and sent home hundreds of thousands of Yemenis working there, putting more pressure on a weak economy and a high unemployment rate.

Saudi Interior Minister Prince Nayef Bin Abdul-Aziz was on Friday quoted as saying Saudi organisations were welcome to bring Yemeni workers to the kingdom. He said he was optimistic a border dispute between the two countries was being solved.

A Saudi-Yemeni military committee started talks in the kingdom on Saturday on reducing troop numbers along their disrupted border. The committee is also expected to tackle the issue of demarcating the potentially oil-rich frontier, which has been in dispute for 60 years.

The two states reached a memorandum of understanding to resolve the dispute in February following months of border clashes and tension between the once close allies.

**Financial
Markets**

Weekly Foreign Exchange Market Summary (September 25-September 29, 1995)

AMMAN — The U.S. unit depreciated marginally against the mark and sterling last week, while stabilising against the yen. It ended the week 0.28 per cent lower against the mark and 0.64 per cent lower against sterling.

The dollar rose against other major currencies Monday, recouping some of its previous week losses. Reports indicated that trading was slow ahead of the Federal Open Market Committee (FOMC) meeting the following day. Analysts expected that the FOMC meeting would not result in monetary easing as evidence suggest that the U.S. economy is picking up steam. The dollar also gained ground on expectations that the Bank of Japan, the Fed, and the Bundesbank might intervene in the market to support the dollar. The expectations were dashed when the Bundesbank president cast doubt that Germany would participate in future intervention efforts.

The U.S. unit continued its appreciation against other major currencies Tuesday, as the mark lost ground against other European currencies. Reports indicated that the rebound of the French franc and the Italian lira against the mark lent support to the dollar. The dollar was also supported by the decision of the FOMC to leave U.S. interest rates unchanged.

However, the U.S. unit, retreated against other major currencies Wednesday, on the back of a weak U.S. bond market. The bond market declined upon the release of U.S. Durable Goods Orders, which hinted at a strong U.S. economy. U.S. Durable Goods Orders rose by 4.9 per cent in August, far above analysts' expectations. The statistics supported analysts' view that there is no need for the Fed to trim U.S. interest rates as its next meeting.

The dollar continued its depreciation Thursday. It declined on worries about the future of the European monetary union, which prompted dealers to buy safe haven Swiss francs and Deutschmarks. The U.S. unit came under further pressure when dealers sold dollars for yen in anticipation of large-scale demand for the yen Friday, ahead of the Japanese fiscal half-year.

The U.S. unit appreciated against the mark and yen at the end of the week, while depreciating against sterling. Reports indicated that the dollar rebounded as dealers took their profits on the Swiss franc and the Deutschmark. Profit taking began after the president of the Swiss National Bank said that the Swiss franc is overvalued at current levels and posed risks for foreign investors in Swiss assets. Meanwhile, dealers were reluctant to take new positions ahead of the IMF meeting the next week.

At the same time, analysts were waiting to see whether the IMF meeting will bring about results that will back up the G-7 meeting last April, which called for an orderly reversal of the dollar's decline.

The U.S. unit, thus, ended the week at 1.4275 marks, 99.73 yen and at 1.5843 dollars to sterling.

Central Bank of Jordan Exchange Rate Bulletin Date: 30-10-1995

Currency	Unit	Rate
U.S. Dollar	100	0.7100
Sterling Pound	100	1.1228
Deutsche Mark	100	0.4906
Swiss Franc	100	0.6138
French Franc	100	0.1440
Japanese Yen*	100	0.7101
Dutch Guilder	100	0.4438
Swedish Krona	100	0.4438
Italian Lira*	100	0.0439
Belgian Franc	100	0.0441

New York Closing Rates for Major Currencies Against the U.S. Dollar

Currency	Sept. 27, 1995	Sept. 29, 1995	Percent Change
Sterling Pound*	1.5743	1.5843	(0.64) %
Deutsche Mark	1.4235	1.4275	(0.28) %
Swiss Franc	1.1465	1.1548	(0.72) %
French Franc	4.9290	4.9240	0.10 %
Japanese Yen	99.95	99.73	0.22 %

Kuwait Currency Interest Rates*

Currency	Sept. 27, 1995	Sept. 29, 1995
U.S. Dollar	5.90	5.75
Sterling Pound	6.69	6.62
Deutsche Mark	3.87	4.06

* USD Per STG

Labour secretary wants to slow U.S. hiring of foreign workers

WASHINGTON (AP) — Labor Secretary Robert Reich is asking Republicans eager to overhaul the nation's immigration laws to close loopholes that let U.S. companies hire skilled foreign workers temporarily.

The programme that allows hiring certain aliens could be depressing wages, particularly in the high-tech industry, and pushing American workers out of jobs, Mr. Reich told a Senate Judiciary subcommittee.

Some employers are replacing U.S. workers with aliens willing to work at significantly lower wages, he said, asking senators to restrict the programme. In some cases, employers recruit foreigners into jobs for which Americans could be trained, he added.

"I firmly believe that hiring foreign over domestic workers should be the rare exception, not the rule," Mr. Reich said. "And I believe such exceptions should be even rarer, and more tightly targeted on gaps in the domestic labour market than is generally the case under current policy."

Mr. Reich said the loopholes have created "body shops" with employers importing hundreds of foreign workers with permission to stay in the United States, sometimes for up to six years.

Nearly 570,000 foreign workers were admitted to the United States temporarily from 1992 to 1994, Mr. Reich said. An unknown number remained here illegally after their visas expired, and many applied for permanent visas.

Because of limited enforcement ability, regulators can't say how many companies

abuse the programme, but complaints have been increasing steadily, the Labour Department said.

A New York immigration lawyer said he didn't think the problem required drastic changes in the law.

"There is abuse of the current... system, but it is by no means overwhelming," Austin Fragomen wrote in a statement to the subcommittee.

"Abuses can and should be controlled through more effective enforcement. The answer is not eliminating or curtailing the lawful path to visiting our country," said Mr. Fragomen, chairman of the American Council on International Personnel.

Republican Senator Alan Simpson of Wyoming is working on a bill to crack down on illegal immigration and restrict legal immigration. A similar bill by Representative Lamar Smith, a Texas Republican, is being debated by the House Judiciary Committee.

Mr. Reich said the Clinton administration supports a proposal to charge fees to businesses importing foreign workers. The money would go into a fund that would pay for better training of U.S. workers.

Mr. Reich also proposed: — Limiting the programme to employers who have not laid off American employees just before or after applying for foreign workers.

— Letting into the programme only companies that have recruited American workers.

— Reducing the time temporary workers can stay in the United States from six years to three years.

AMMAN FINANCIAL MARKET
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NIZO MARKET SHARE PRICE LIST FOR SUNDAY 01/10/1995

NAME	NO. OF SHARES TRADED	VALUE JD	PREV. CLOSING PRICE	NEW CLOSING PRICE
IC	920	225100	243.000	245.000
ONAL BANK	950	4248	4.470	4.470
OAN	9413	32946	3.500	3.500
INVESTMENT BANK	29150	37314	1.290	1.280
DEVELOPMENT BANK	923	2223	2.420	2.410
TT BANK	910	2511	2.780	2.760
MIC BANK	163981	199582	1.210	1.200
FOR SAVING & INVESTMENT	790	2938	3.740	3.720
STMENT & FINANCE BANK	6139	23303	3.800	3.750
SAVINGINVESTMENT FOR HOUSING	150	533	3.590	3.550
FOR INVESTMENT	499	1906	3.780	3.820
A INVESTMENT BANK	100	337	3.370	3.370
SECTOR	41600	39934	.960	.960
	2600	4099	1.580	1.590
CH INSURANCE	1400	3783	2.700	2.700
ANCE SECTOR	1400	3783	INOEX NUMBER: 132.51	CHANGE : 0.00%
LECTRIC POWER	18373	30500	1.660	1.660
L & TOURISM	35000	302750	8.550	8.650
ATIONAL HOTELS	590	5.900	5.900	5.900
RTOLIO SECURITIES	2700	5562	2.050	2.060
S & PUBLISHING /AD-OUTDOOR	1000	7500	7.600	7.500
FOR INVESTMENT & EDUCATION	3600	11219	3.120	3.120
TE UNIVERSITY	2000	2673	1.350	1.340
DEVELOPMENT CORP	1840	1992	1.090	1.090
CES SECTOR	64642	362861	INOEX NUMBER: 128.20	CHANGE : -0.08%
CEMENT FACTORIES	22577	81822	3.620	3.630
PHATE MINES	1500	1500	3.010	3.000
OLEUM REFINARY	3478	32899	9.450	9.460
IAL COMMERCIAL & AGRICULTURAL	115	377	3.240	3.280
WORSTED MILLS	250	1863	7.600	7.450
CEUTICAL MANUFACTURING	960	4679	4.890	4.870
WEAVING	500	900	1.810	1.800
TUM INDUSTRY	419	2211	5.300	5.280
POULTRY	368650	261996	.690	.710
CONVERTING & TRADING	1750	2503	1.430	1.430
OOSTRIES	3528	3847	1.100	1.090
WOLE INDUSTRIES	1000	1080	1.100	1.080
BLE & WIRE MANUFACTURING	2494	472	4.360	4.360
HO-CHEMICALS	500	720	1.460	1.440
FOR PHARM. & CHEMICALS	112	235	2.100	2.100
ESTMENT	250	413	1.660	1.650
COERN INDUSTRIES	2750	8738	3.200	3.170
STRIAL RESOURCES CO.	8600	17081	1.990	1.980
AL TOBACCO & CIGARETTES	1900	3128	1.640	1.640
CAL & VEGETABLE OIL INDUSTRI	4760	6780	1.420	1.420
	5250	11013	2.080	2.050
TRIAL SECTOR	428506	446646	INOEX NUMBER: 124.59	CHANGE : -0.07%
TOTAL	752673	1390308	INOEX NUMBER: 160.22	CHANGE : +0.29%
TRADED SHARES IN PARALLEL MARKET		176668		
RADED IN PARALLEL MARKET		177713		

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Jubilation in Yemen after Naseem Hamad becomes world champion

SANAA (AFP) — Tens of thousands of people poured into the streets of Yemen's capital and other main cities early Sunday to celebrate boxer Naseem Hamad's World Boxing Organisation (WBO) featherweight title victory.

The celebrations went on until dawn after Hamad, a Briton whose family originate from Yemen, one of the world's poorest countries, became world champion by defeating Welshman Steve Robinson in Cardiff.

"God is great. Naseem has given the entire world another image of Yemen," the crowds chanted, after Hamad's victory when the referee stopped the bout in the eighth round of the contest.

President Ali Abdullah Saleh, who decorated Hamad earlier this year, telephoned the boxer to congratulate him on his win.

State television played patriotic music and halted its programme schedules to announce the victory and proclaim Hamad, whose family came from the southern city of Radaa, a national hero.

Millions of Yemenis, chewing large quantities of qat, a leaf containing a stimulant, gathered around their television sets to watch the fight which was relayed by the London-based Saudi television station MBC.

In the past few years, Yemen has had little to celebrate after a series of political crises and an armed conflict between the government and separatists in the south from May to July last year which ended in victory for Saleh.

Puerto Rican referee Ismael Fernandez stopped the one-sided fight in the eighth round, as Robinson could clearly no longer take the punishment, or the taunting, from his opponent.

Time and again, Hamad ducked and swayed away from Robinson's punches, frustrating the Welshman before punishing him with his lightning fists.

Hamad almost played with Robinson in the opening round before going to work, grinning and shimmying, to leave the champion bemused and without armoury.

Robinson soldiered on, his chin standing up to the bombardment, taking a world-class upper cut in the third which would have dispatched many nine-stoners.

The Welshman fought his way through it, but his right eye was swelling badly before his resistance began to crumble.

Two right upper cuts and a left hand in the fifth sent Robinson down for only the second time in his career.

He pulled himself up at three to take the remainder of the eight count and then denied the Englishman victory in the sixth.

The crowd chanted Robinson's name, but Hamad cruelly chanted it back in the champion's face. It must have been the final demoralising straw.

By the seventh it seemed as if Robinson's only remaining mission was to try to survive to the final bell.

His right eye was almost shut and Hamad finished the proceedings with chilling suddenness in the eighth.

A thunderbolt left crashed on to Robinson's chin and when he went down for the second time referee Fernandez waved his arms wide in an act of mercy.

Hamad took his unbeaten professional record to 20 victories.



Prince Naseem Hamad goes in with a right hook on defending champion Steve Robinson during the WBO (World Boxing Organisation) featherweight title fight September 30. Hamad won the fight after putting Robinson down in the eighth round (Reuters photo)

New foreign talent fires up first day of Singapore semi-pro play

SINGAPORE (AP) — Inspired by local interest in the highly popular National Basketball Association (NBA), Singapore has taken its first shaky steps to launch big time basketball here.

The Warriors beat Empire 100-90 and the Eagles defeated the Dragons 103-85 Saturday to open the first season of semi-pro ball, which promoters hope to turn into a fully professional operation within five years.

Cheerleaders during the timeouts and a basket shooting contest for the fans at halftime gave the games a bit of U.S.-style pizzazz for 3,000 enthusiastic fans at the refurbished Geylang Stadium.

In terms of individual skill and teamwork, the quality of play was nowhere near prime college offerings in the United States, but it promises to satisfy fans in a city-state of 3 million where informal basketball is second only to soccer.

The courts in public housing projects echo to bouncing balls, teenagers wearing Chicago Bulls T-shirts crowd subway trains with basketballs under their arms and the trade in basketball cards has overtaken that of Hong Kong film stars.

But until now wide interest in the U.S. sport has not translated into spectator support for organised local teams.

Low budgets and resistance to the idea of having foreign players in a domestic league previously deterred teams from bringing in top-calibre competitors from other countries, said Thomas Koh, a sports-writer for the Straits Times.

The result was drab, low-scoring contests by local players of limited talent.

That changed this year with an infusion of support from the Tiger Brewery, and a requirement that each of the five teams use two foreign players. Seven Americans and three former national players from

China were imported.

Teams were given new names to attract non-Chinese fans. The Warriors were known last year as Sin Kee, Empire as Sheng Hong Temple, Eagles as Gong Shan Old Boys' Association and Dragons as Tong Whye.

The Basketball Association of Singapore assessed the strength of each team and assigned the foreigners so that they would start the six-week season evenly balanced.

Elsewhere, at least three private enterprise groups based in Australia, the United States and Hong Kong are competing to set up the first professional basketball league spanning the Asia-Pacific region.

The NBA has offices in Japan and Australia — the two most developed and affluent basketball nations in the Asia-Pacific. The NBA has 2,250 consumer outlets in Japan selling its licensed products, a league spokesman said.

Olajuwon expected to miss first week of teams' training camp

HOUSTON (AP) — Hakeem Olajuwon likely will miss the first week of the Houston Rockets' training camp because of the sore back that kept him from playing in a one-on-one duel with Shaquille O'Neal.

"I don't think I can think about opening camp right now," Olajuwon told a local radio station Saturday. "I think it will take a couple of weeks at least."

The Rockets, who won their second straight world championship in June, are scheduled to open camp Oct. 6.

back problem.

Olajuwon said he is taking medication for the ailment and is not in pain from the injury, which he sustained while lifting weights.

"It's just my movement that's restricted," he said of his lower back problem.

After playing pickup ball in Houston, he said he felt fine until he got home.

"I couldn't get out of my car. I stiffened up and couldn't move," said Olajuwon, who said he had been training all summer for three things: The O'Neal matchup, the McDonald's championships in London later this month and the Rockets' NBA title defence.

Olajuwon was slated to face O'Neal in a \$1 million duel broadcast on pay-per-view Saturday night in Atlantic City, New Jersey. But the event was canceled Friday because of Olajuwon's

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Schumacher stuns Alesi with superb win

NURBURGRING, Germany (AFP) — World championship leader Michael Schumacher of Germany won the European Grand Prix here Sunday, virtually ensuring his second world title in a row after Britain's Damon Hill failed to finish.

Schumacher's brilliant win boosted his world championship lead over Hill to 27 points with only three races to go.

Hill needed to win here to stay in contention but instead damaged his car in one serious incident and then skidded off the track in his Williams with eight laps to go. His Williams teammate and compatriot David Coulthard was third.

Alesi drove a superb race, starting from sixth place on the grid on dry-weather tyres and fighting his way into an imposing lead early on which he only relinquished once on a pit stop until the final showdown with Schumacher.

It was Alesi who destroyed Hill's hopes, when the Briton tried to slip past him on a bend with half the race

remaining and Alesi closed the door decisively. He clipped a front wing off the Williams in the process and Hill was forced into the pits.

When he emerged more than 30 seconds later with his car patched up, he had slumped from second to eighth place.

The Briton had earlier won the dog-fight with Schumacher for second place after both drivers went into the pits to switch wet weather tyres for dry ones as the morning rain cleared and the sodden Nurburgring dried out.

But after Hill's tangle with Alesi, Schumacher moved into second spot and closed a wide gap on the Ferrari to under one second before his third pit stop, though impressively past, left him over 22 seconds behind.

That appeared to leave him too much to do. But that was reckoning without Schumacher's grit and determination and he quickly reduced the deficit, finally taking the Ferrari on the inside to the cheers of the home crowd.

Newcastle wins at Everton

LONDON (AFP) — Eric Cantona made an immediate impact on his return to English football Sunday, but Newcastle went marching on at the top of the premiership.

Cantona, banned since January, crafted United's opener against Liverpool with just over a minute gone. He later converted a penalty after Ryan Giggs had been brought down while running on to the Frenchman's through ball.

In between, Robbie Fowler struck twice for Liverpool and the points were shared.

Liverpool left complaining about another penalty decision that wasn't awarded. Boss Roy Evans said: "We lost two points because of a dodgy decision."

He added: "I take heart from the performance of the lads and I'm sick for them."

Evans added on the return of Cantona: "We had to be sensible about it. Manchester United against Liverpool is bigger than Eric Cantona or anybody."

Alex Ferguson was delighted with the Frenchman's contribution.

"I thought he did well. He was obviously very tired at the end but that is to be expected."

Asked whether he'd had any reservations about Cantona taking the penalty kick after such a long lay-off, Ferguson said: "You must be joking."

United could have been playing to go to the top of the premiership but the other Liverpool team, Everton, had found Newcastle in irresistible form earlier in the day.

Newcastle manager Kevin Keegan sent a message to the rest of the premiership after the 3-0 win at Goodison. "We look like a team

who can win something this season," he said.

The goals came from Les Ferdinand — his 100th in English football — Robert Lee from the penalty spot and substitute Paul Kitson, with Anders Limpar replying for outclassed Everton.

Keegan picked out Ferdinand and Lee as being key to the club's seventh win in eight league outings.

He said: "That was as good a performance as I have seen from a centre forward. He led the line

67th-minute equaliser to Deny Millwall the chance of going to the top.

Millwall's goals came from Alex Rae in the seventh minute and Kingsley Black in the 26th. Derby's first equaliser came from Rob Willens in the 10th minute, his first goal since his 300,000-pound summer move from Grasshoppers Zurich.

In the Italian league, leaders AC Milan saw their 100 per cent start to the Italian season ruined by a shock 1-



Goalkeeper of Bayer Leverkusen Dirk Heinen cannot stop the ball from going in to the goal September 30 after a free kick by Bremen's Mario Basler. The match ended in a 2-2 draw (Reuters photo) Other Bundesliga matches played Saturday were as following: Bayer Leverkusen 2 Werder Bremen 2; Freiburg 1 Schalke 2; 1860 Munich 2 Fortuna Duesseldorf 1; Karlsruhe 0 Hansa Rostock 2; Kaiserslautern 1 Cologne 1

Champions Juventus, due to meet Milan in two weeks, failed to take advantage of their rival's setback, struggling to contain a Napoli side enjoying their best start to the season since winning the championship in 1990.

Carmine Gautieri scored Bari's winner straight after half time, keeping calm after breaking away from Milan's defence on the halfway line to beat Sebastiano Rossi with a diagonal shot.

The visitors took a deserved lead in the 51st minute when Fabio Pecchia beat Juve's offside trap before rounding Angelo Peruzzi and rolling the ball into an open net.

Within four minutes, Gianluca Vialli levelled and Juventus, visibly tired after their midweek European Cup win over Steaua Bucharest, held on for a point as Napoli's Brazilian sweeper Andre Cruz struck the bar in the closing minutes.

The result keeps Juventus and Napoli joint second on 11 points after five matches, one adrift of Milan and one ahead of Parma, 3-1 winners at Padova.

Bulgarian Hristo Stochkov scored twice in the last two matches and four for the young season. Gianfranco Zola scored the third.

Lammtarra wins L'Arc de Triomphe

PARIS (AP) — Lammtarra made a brilliant stretch run to win the L'Arc de Triomphe race Sunday to stay unbeaten for his career and become the first horse since 1971 to complete an impressive Triple victory.

The British horse, ridden by Lefranco Dettori and trained by Saeed Bin Suroor, took the lead with about 600 metres to go in the 2,400-metre (1 1/2-mile) race and stubbornly stayed in front the rest of the way.

Second was Freedom Cry, who made a late rush to come less than a length behind with Swain third and Lando fourth.

Dettori was in command of his horse through the fine run down the straightaway.

"This horse is like a lion and doesn't know when to get beat," Dettori said after the victory.

The victory was worth four million francs (\$800,000) to the owner, Maktoom Al Maktoum.

It was the first time since Mill Reef in 1971 that any horse had taken the English Derby (Epsom), King

George VI (Ascot) and Prix de L'Arc de Triomphe triple in a year.

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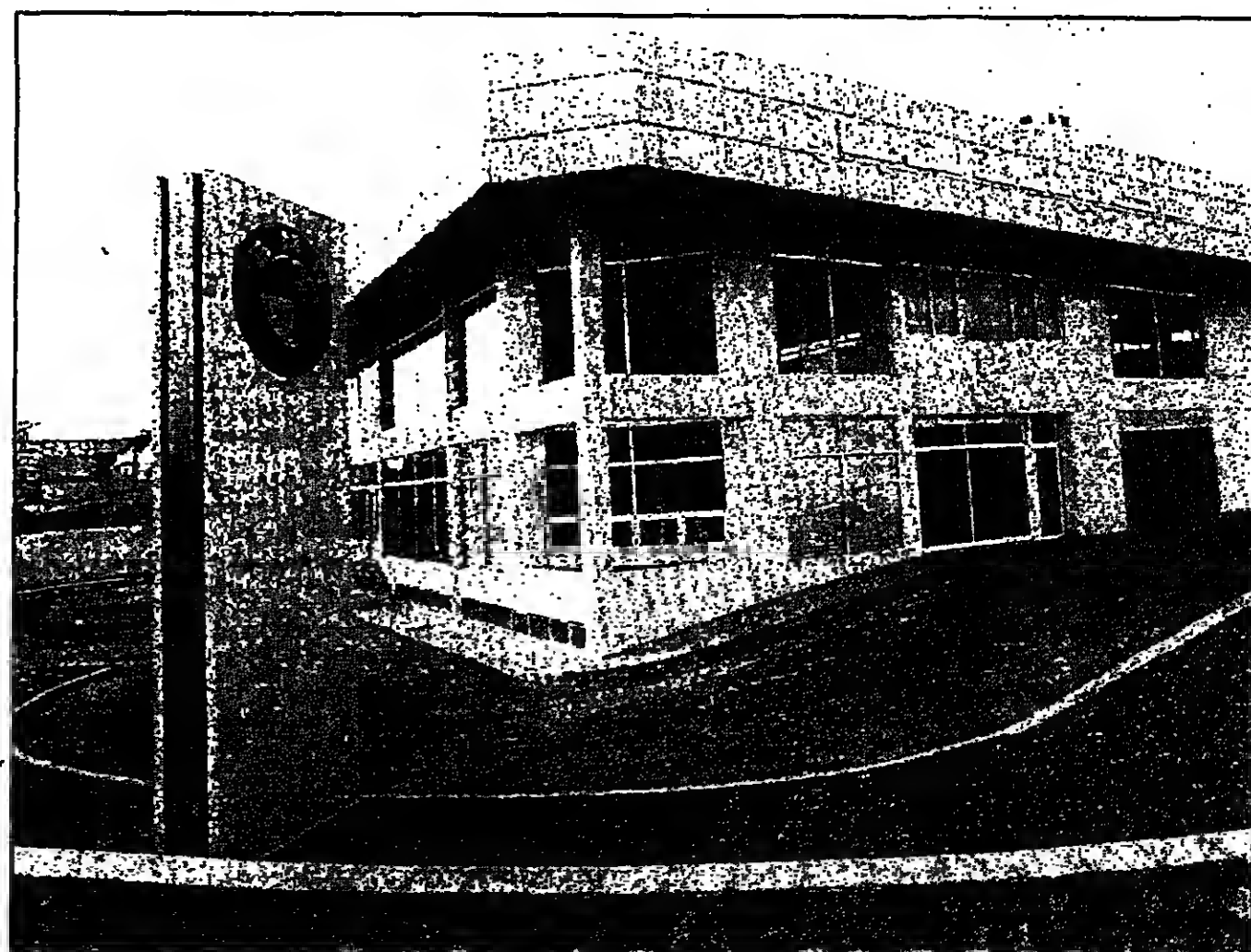
Congratulates The Winners

ROVER

Name	Number
1. Rania Al-Mouk	05288
2. Ahmad Sha's	95034
3. Radhi Hindaw	146750
4. Kim Jihaz	199204
5. Issa Rafiq Az	209674
6. Osama Al-Tam	0493
7. Mahmoud Al-K	06197
8. Khalid Khreis	277887
9. Safwan Takriti	157205
10. Fawwaz Salameh	48435
11. Bayan Tabbala	182878
12. Rima Fawwaz	151743
13. Najib Najjar	33718
14. Tislio Senta	37496
15. As'ad Qasem	175868
16. Mousa Irshid	194811

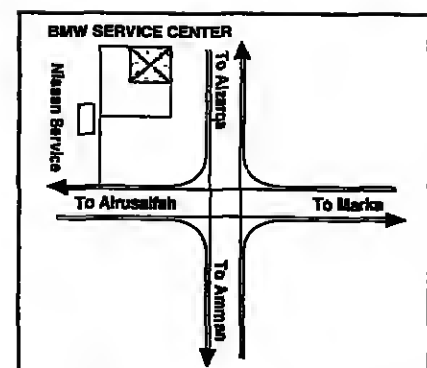
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LAST TOWN TO BE FREE: A Palestinian woman carries sacks of vegetables on her head in the market of the old city of Hebron in the occupied West Bank. The Israeli army will start pulling out of most other towns in the West Bank this month in line with an agreement it signed with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) in Washington on Thursday, but will not leave Hebron until March. The Israeli army will retain its control of the town until then in what it describes as an effort to "protect" the 420 Jewish settlers who live there among 120,000 Palestinians (see story on page 1) (AP photo)

Jordan promotes joint ventures ahead of summit

By Suleiman Al Khalidi
Reuters

AMMAN — Jordan said on Sunday it hoped an international economic summit, due to open this month, would lead to specific joint venture deals to help Arab-Israeli peace.

"The vision we have is one of investing in the future of the Middle East and not selling goods and services," Omayya Touqan, who heads the national committee preparing for the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) economic summit, told foreign reporters.

More than 1,000 government leaders and businessmen are due to attend the Oct. 29-31 summit that will look into investment opportunities in the Middle East.

It is a follow-up to last year's Casablanca economic summit that for the first time brought together Arab and Israeli political and business leaders.

Dr. Touqan, who is also director of the Amman Stock Exchange (AFM), said Jordan expected firm business deals to be sealed during the summit in contrast with the largely political Casablanca summit last year which helped businessmen make contacts.

"Unlike Casablanca, where we exchanged business cards, and declared that the region was open to business, the clear message of the Amman summit to the international business community is that the region is already open for business."

He said Jordan's private sector was looking for equity partners and joint projects: "Not debt facilities." In over 100 projects to be presented, they cover agriculture, tourism, industries and financial services.

"We are looking for joint venture and equity partners... we do not want any financial or debt facilities or loans."

Dr. Touqan said foreign



Omayya Touqan.

capital would be encouraged into expanding existing viable ventures and promote mergers.

Dr. Touqan said Jordan was doing its part to attract foreign investment by a package of economic laws recently passed that has created a more favourable business climate.

He said Jordan hoped a declaration at the end of the summit would announce the creation of a proposed \$5 billion Middle East development bank, although its fate was uncertain.

Dr. Touqan admitted that the body was still a centre of debate between its backers and the European Union (EU).

Europeans oppose it on grounds there are enough lenders in the region with the EU itself pledging over \$11 billion in grants and loans. It has proposed a smaller body to link those needing assistance with appropriate financing agencies.

Many diplomats and businessmen have doubts what will be accomplished at the summit seeing as a comprehensive peace has still not been reached in the Middle East.

Syria and Lebanon, key partners to any regional projects, will stay away from the conference because their bilateral peace talks with Israel have not achieved much progress.

Rabin is bashed for criticising American Jewish leaders

TEL AVIV (AP) — Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin is alienating U.S. Jews by attacking them for dwindling financial contributions and growing criticism of his peace policies, said the Israeli official in charge of ties to world Jews Sunday.

"We should not launch an attack on all U.S. Jews. That would be a mistake of historical proportions," said Avraham Burg, head of the quasi-governmental Jewish Agency.

"American Jewry is not extremist," Mr. Burg said, noting only a vocal minority are opposed to Mr. Rabin's peacemaking with the Arabs. He said the government should encourage U.S. Jews to be involved in Israel "in as many areas as possible."

Mr. Rabin spoke to leaders of American Jewish groups in New York city Friday, a day after Israel and Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) signed an accord in Washington widening Palestinian autonomy in the West Bank.

He complained that a group of U.S. Jewish opponents to the accord had lobbied against Israel's efforts in congress to win financial aid for the PLO's cash-strapped autonomy government.

"We will ignore them," Mr. Rabin said. "They are loathsome in my eyes. It is time to speak openly. They have crossed red lines."

Mr. Rabin also angered some audience members by criticising the decline in U.S. Jews' donations to Israel and suggesting they should do more to help Israel absorb hundreds of thousands of new immigrants.

Israel's fund-raising income was down 20 per cent to a projected \$200 million this year, according to Jewish Agency figures.

Seymour Reich, a top American Jewish leader, was quoted by the Yediot Ahronot daily as saying Mr. Rabin "got very carried away" and caused "disappointment and anger" among U.S. Jews.

"The facts that he spoke about are correct, but why did he choose to throw it in our faces?" he added. "He minimises our value and alienates us."

This was not the first time Mr. Rabin upset U.S. Jews. Shortly after his election in 1992, he ignited anger by advising pro-Israel lobbyists in Washington that the Jewish state needed them less than before.

Iraq promised total openness on arms programmes - Ekeus

BAGHDAD (Agencies) — Iraq has pledged to reveal everything on its banned weapons programme, the senior U.N. official responsible for dismantling Iraq's mass destruction arsenal said here Sunday.

Rolf Ekeus, head of the U.N. Special Commission (UNSCOM) on Iraqi disarmament, said there were still several issues that needed clearing up but Deputy Prime Minister Tariq Aziz had promised to be completely open with arms inspectors.

"Mr. Aziz expressed the policy of openness of Iraq, not to obstruct the personnel involved and not to keep secrets any more and to reveal everything to make it possible to verify the declaration of Iraq," he said.

"This is the positive side. On the problem side, there are issues remaining to be cleared up," concerning Iraq's missile, chemical and germ warfare programme, he added.

Mr. Ekeus said Iraq still had some missiles equipped with chemical warheads. "There are some missiles left but I really do not want to disclose publicly. There are problems with counting the missile warheads, especially biological and chemical war-

heads."

Iraq, which has been under a U.N. oil and trade embargo since its August 1990 invasion of Kuwait, will be allowed to resume oil exports only when UNSCOM certifies that its mass destruction programmes are dismantled.

Mr. Ekeus, who is due to report on Oct. 11 to the U.N. Security Council on how Iraq is complying with disarmament resolutions, left Baghdad for his commission's rear base at Manama after wrapping up a three-day mission here.

"I think we can move forward quickly," he said, adding that the main outstanding issue was to identify the quantities of toxic agents, such as anthrax and a volatile chemical known as VX, produced by Iraq for military purposes.

His team of inspectors also needed to know how much of these agents was left and what could still be used in weapons. "We must ensure that there is no such capability left," he said.

He last visited Baghdad in August after the defection of former Industry Minister General Hussein Kamel, a son-in-law of President Saddam Hussein and considered the architect of Iraq's ad-

vanced weapons programmes.

At those talks he gleaned new information on the size and extent of Iraq's germ, nuclear and ballistic missile programmes, after Baghdad accused Gen. Kamel of concealing the data.

Mr. Ekeus' deputy, Charles Duelfer, said earlier this month that Baghdad had revealed new germ warfare sites and also admitted to carrying out a live test of a Scud missile armed with a chemical warhead before the 1991 Gulf war.

Mr. Duelfer said the U.N. monitoring systems would have to be revised in the light of the new information.

Mr. Ekeus met Saturday with Mr. Aziz. The meeting was attended by Oil Minister Amer Rasheed, according to Iraqi radio.

General Rasheed was until his appointment in June as presidential adviser on Iraq's Military Industries Organisation, which runs the weapons programmes, and Mr. Ekeus separately met him twice since he arrived in the Iraqi capital on Friday.

U.N. officials believe Iraq, despite handing over tens of thousands of documents, video tapes, computer disks and microfilm on its weapons programmes last month, was

withholding vital data.

The Iraqi News Agency quoted Mr. Ekeus as saying after he met Gen. Rasheed on Saturday that he was "happy with the outcome of the talks."

It said Friday the Swedish disarmament expert was in Baghdad to "evaluate the developments of the last few months to prepare a report for the U.N. Security Council on Iraq's implementation of U.N. resolutions."

Mr. Ekeus reaffirmed to reporters after flying in to Bahrain from Baghdad that Iraq had given him "strong assurances" that it would revise its policy of concealing information from U.N. inspectors and take "a more open attitude."

The Swedish disarmament expert said he was reassured by the "large amount of new information" he had received.

He said that the report he will submit to the U.N. Security Council Oct. 11 will "contain a large amount of information on the data that Iraq hid from the inspection teams."

Mr. Ekeus said Iraq's new attitude was "a positive step" which would "serve as a plus point in the Security Council report."

Opposition coalition calls for efforts to abort peace agreements with Israel

By Ramadan Rawashdeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Representatives of 10 Jordanian parties and independent politicians opposing the Jordan-Israel peace treaty and the Israel-Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) accords on Sunday called for collective action by the Jordanian and Palestinian people to abort the "Oslo and the Wadi Araba agreements."

The group, which is leading the campaign against normalisation with Israel, emphasised in a statement released at a press conference their total rejection of all the agreements and the treaties with Israel and any direct or indirect recognition of Jerusalem as the eternal capital of the Jewish state. It stressed its members were willing to sacrifice their souls in defence of the Arab character and identity of the Holy City.

The same group held a meeting in Amman on Sept. 29 attended by more than 500 people from 11 governorates in addition to Parliament members to reiterate their opposition of the peace accords and to hear the reading of charter described as the opposition's plan "for protecting the homeland and confronting normalisation."

Islamic Action Front (IAF) Party Secretary General Ishaq Al Fathan read out at the press conference that meeting's final communique.

Among other things the communique admitted that many ideological and political differences in views existed among opposition parties, especially over the concept of "just peace." But it stressed that all the parties were in agreement on the minimum level of common ground, particularly in opposing any moves in Jordan towards normalisation with Israel as well as "protection of the home-

land."

The communique voiced the opposition parties' call on "leaders of the masses" in Arab states for support and to pave the way for holding a pan-Arab conference on opposing the normalisation of Arab relations with Israel.

The parties passed a number of resolutions. One of them called on Arab countries to express solidarity with Syria and Lebanon in their rejection of what they called the Zionist-imperialist conditions for a settlement.

Another resolution called for a rejection of the Taba accord between Israel and the Palestine National Authority "in form and in content," while another called on the "masses" to confront government projects that open the way for Israel's participation in them or allow the sale of property to the Jewish state.

The communique also condemned the cancellation of

the Arab boycott of Israel and denounced what they called the government's "violation of public freedoms, acts of repression," which, it said, "are being committed in the course of accelerating the drive to implement the Wadi Araba treaty."

The communique asserted that the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) conference "will serve as an approach to what is termed as the new Middle East market, which does not serve national or pan-Arab interests."

The communique said the parties had elected a 15-member committee to follow up the implementation of the resolutions in three months.

Last May the government banned a conference by the opposition parties shortly before it was due to be held and said the parties had sought to instigate public disorder by calling on Jordanians to resist the peace treaty.

The communique also condemned the cancellation of

Ministry promises 'fair' ruling in row over tissue paper

By Ghalia Alul
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — A special committee set up by the Ministry of Supply will issue its decision today or tomorrow on the pricing of second-grade tissue paper, but it is not yet clear whether its ruling will end the dispute between the ministry and tissue paper producers over the latter's demand to float the price of the product.

Minister of State for Parliamentary Affairs and acting Minister of Supply Abdul Majid Al Azzam told the Jordan Times that the committee's decision will be "fair" to both producers and customers and will be based on what he described as "scientific research" of data, part of which was submitted by some of the tissue factories.

"We will be fair to both consumers and producers," said Dr. Azzam.

Tissue paper factories had demanded that the ministry float the prices of the second-grade tissue paper in order to offset the rise in the production cost which came about as a result of increases in the prices of raw material on the international market.

They said that rise in production cost has rendered their current profit margin unfeasible.

One factory, the Arab Sanitary Paper Converting Company (Soft), has stopped production and laid off its employees, saying that its operations were no longer feasible after the rise of raw material cost and the refusal of the ministry to float the prices.

The price of second-grade tissue paper is fixed by the Cabinet while that of first-grade products is floated.

Floating the price of second-grade products will allow for competition which

will lead to improvement in the quality of tissue papers.

Dr. Azzam said he was not convinced that floating the price was a viable course of action at this time.

"At this time, we cannot float the price of second-grade tissue paper because it is a commodity used by low income groups," said Dr. Azzam, adding that the price of first-grade tissue paper was fixed to help producers.

"I am not convinced that competition will serve the consumers at this point in time," said Dr. Azzam.

There were instances when international prices for certain commodities went down but no corresponding trend appeared in Jordan, he said.

But he said he recognised the increase in the production cost and said the committee's decision would aim at protecting the interest of the producers, the consumers and the country.

"We do not want to be unfair to the producers, but we also do not want to put extra burdens on the consumers," he said.

He said the committee studied the rise in raw material prices and its decision will be "fair."

Producers who talked to the Jordan Times appeared firm in their demands but were tightlipped about the action they will take if the ministry turned them down.

General Manager of Soft Abdul Majid Al Faouri said that if the ministry does not want to float the price, it should purchase the raw material itself and calculate the production cost and the margin of profit.

If that happens, "we will abide by what the Ministry of

Lyon cars torched after suspect killed

LYON, France (Agencies) — Unknown attackers burned 23 vehicles around the central French city of Lyon overnight after police killed an Algerian-born man suspected of links to a wave of bombings, police said on Sunday.

Police kept up tight nationwide security against possible guerrilla attacks even though the government said that 24-year-old Khalid Kelkal, shot dead on Friday night, was believed to have been involved in the entire rash of attacks.

Twelve vehicles were torched in the eastern suburb of Vaulx-en-Velin, Kelkal's home town. Others were set ablaze in nearby areas including Saint-Priest and Venissieux. No one was arrested.

"We don't know who was behind this, but there are often protests in the suburbs by disaffected groups. Kelkal had few sympathisers, but the shooting may have been a pretext," a police source said.

Interior Minister Jean-Louis Debré tied Kelkal and an accomplice, Karim Koussa, to attacks that have killed seven people and injured 130 others in France since July, as well as to the assassination of an exiled Algerian Muslim cleric in Paris, Abdul Baki Sahraoui.

Asked if his arrest meant that France was now safer, Mr. Debré said in a television interview late on Saturday: "Let's not seek the degree of this threat. It exists, it remains."

He said that an emergency civil protection plan that has mobilised 20,000 police and 2,800 troops would stay in effect for as long as necessary.

But the Journal du Dimanche newspaper said that investigators felt that Mr. Debré had gone too far in linking Kelkal to some other attacks, including one in the

Paris underground train that killed seven people and injured 92 on July 25.

"These techniques for making explosives are very widespread and, according to their information, several other groups are in operation," it said. Investigators believe the attacks are linked to extremists in Algeria.

Militants say France backs Algeria's military-led government, which they are fighting to overthrow. An estimated 30,000 people have died in violence since Algerian authorities scrapped 1992 elections the fundamentalists were poised to win.

Kelkal was shot by elite commandos Friday night after a two-day manhunt involving nearly 800 police in woods outside Lyon. He had been sought since August after his fingerprints were found on a bomb left on the train tracks on the Paris-Lyon express.

On Saturday Mr. Debré said there were indications that Kelkal was linked to at least one other of the wave of attacks which have hit France over the last two months.

But senior police officials doubt Kelkal was anywhere near the heart of a terrorist network coordinating the terrorism wave.

In particular they are sceptical that Kelkal could have been involved in the most murderous attack of all: the July 23 bombing of Saint Michel RER station in central Paris.

One police source said of Kelkal: "There is no doubt that he was extremely dangerous but he wasn't a major terrorist. He was just a petty criminal who moved into a different field of activity."

Key establishment figures warned Sunday that his death risks being seen as a martyr-

(Continued on page 7)

COLUMN

U.S. jet lands at wrong European airport

WASHINGTON (R) — A Northwest Airlines jet bound for Frankfurt, Germany, from Detroit landed by mistake in Belgium early this month, the Washington Post reported in Sunday's editions. The newspaper said the U.S. Federal Aviation Administration (FAA) office in Brussels and European officials were investigating the Sept. 5 incident. They said the DC-10 was never in any danger. So far the inquiry had traced a trail of missed opportunities to redirect the flight, including the reluctance of flight attendants to contact the cockpit crew when they and the 241 passengers clearly saw the path the plane was taking on electronic map displays in the cabin, the Post said. The newspaper quoted a source close to the investigation as saying: "The only people on that plane who didn't know where they were were the three guys up front." A Northwest Airlines spokesman told the Post the captain, first officer and flight engineer had been grounded pending the outcome of the investigation. He said they faced disciplinary action ranging from reprimand to dismissal.

Brazilia phones shut down in cellular sale

BRASILIA (R) — The telephone system in Brazil's capital was paralysed Saturday as would-be cellular subscribers overwhelmed it with calls, broadcast reports said. Dial tones were rare and connections almost impossible as the state-run Telebrasilia system struggled to deal with callers trying to get one of 19,000 cellular subscriptions. The company had prepared to receive 1,800 subscriber calls an hour but instead was flooded with 40,000 calls an hour, private CBN Radio reported. The system could not handle the load and half the telephones in the capital of Laio America's biggest country were out of service. "This situation is not going to normalise itself until the calls fall off," a company spokesman told Globo Television. Telebrasilia estimates there is peak-up demand for 100,000 cellular telephones in the capital. Brazilian President Fernando Henrique Cardoso has made reforming the state telephone system by opening it to private capital a priority of his economic reforms.

Britain switches to metric for packaged foods

LONDON (AP) — Britain went metric Sunday, heading orders from European Union officials to use the metric system for all packaged foods. Many supermarkets have already abandoned the old British imperial system of pounds and ounces, providing plastic conversion charts at the meat counter to ease the transition. Any merchant who fails to adapt can be fined £1,000, or about \$1,500. The government has emphasised what won't change: Pint glasses of beer to pubs, pint bottles of milk delivered at the doorstep and mile markers on roads will still be a part of British life. Stores can keep weighing out loose items by the pound and ounce through the end of the decade. There are concerns that stores will take advantage of the situation by slyly nudging prices higher as they perform the conversion. It will be hard for consumers to figure things out unless they know exactly what the old price was and bring a calculator with them.

(Continued on page 7)

Kuwait is studying report

(Continued from page 1)

Resolution 949 of October 1994 requires Iraq never again send to the south the units it had deployed near Kuwait's border earlier that month sparking off a 10-day standoff with Kuwait and its allies.

Sheikh Saad Al Abdullah Al Sabah said last week that Iraq might be preparing another attack on Kuwait.

An official Iraqi newspaper called on Washington on Sunday to open dialogue with Baghdad instead of meddling in its internal affairs.

Kuwait's Crown Prince